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Gunmen kill police detective in Gaza

GAZA (AP) — Masked gunmen shot dead a Palestinian police detective in the Gaza Strip Sunday, and a Palestinian farmer was killed in a clash with police who ordered his family evicted. Witnesses said Capt. Amer Salah, 32, was gunned down in front of his home in Gaza City's Shati Refugee Camp. Mr. Salah, a PLO-backed leader in the camp during the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule, joined the police soon after Gaza won self-rule in May 1994. It was the second time in eight days unknown gunmen have killed a Palestinian policeman in Gaza. Police launched searches for the gunmen. They have still not captured the three gunmen who shot dead a policeman guarding the house of Gaza's chief civil judge on July 15. Later Sunday, Palestinian police clashed with farmers in the village of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip when they ordered them to vacate government land that they had squatted on seven years ago. Witnesses and police said the farmers attacked the police with axes and sticks, severely beating an officer. Shots were fired and Musad Sabah, 26, was hit in the head and died, they said. It was not clear who fired the shots. Police said they confiscated an assault rifle.

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'Syria urges Iraqi opposition to unify'

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian Vice President Abdel Halim Khaddam urged the Iraqi opposition on Sunday to end bitter feuding and close ranks, opposition sources said. A statement by the Shiite Islamic Action Organization (IAO) said Mr. Khaddam also offered Syria's help to opponents of Iraqi president Saddam Hussein during the meeting with IAO leader Ayatollah Mohammad Tazi Al Mudarrisi. The statement said that both men discussed fighting between Iraqi Kurdish opposition factions in northern Iraq, where the Kurds benefit from a U.N. protection zone, and agreed that faction fighting was adversely affecting the Iraqi opposition. Mr. Khaddam stressed the necessity of the unification of the Iraqi opposition ranks noting that the current situation required a unified policy and a practical plan to direct the activities inside Iraq, the statement said. "He also offered Syria's help to achieve this objective," it added.

Sharif Zeid reaffirms fairness of municipal polls

Government working to ensure success of economic summit
Premier warns opposition not to 'cross the limits'

By Abdullah Hasanat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday brushed aside Islamists' accusations that the government rigged the July 11 municipal elections and challenged them to go to court if they can prove their allegations.

"The government did not rig the elections nor did it manipulate them in any way," Sharif Zeid asserted during a meeting with local editors and columnists. "If it [The Islamic Action Front] has any proof, let it go to the courts as I said at the time" of the elections.

The Prime Minister also warned the Islamists, who lead opposition against normal relations with Israel, not to cross the limits into "seditious agitation."

"We will not allow anyone to agitate the people into sedition," Sharif Zeid warned. "The government will not force anyone to normalise or trade with Israel. Likewise, the government will not tolerate seditionist agitation" against the regime.

Asked if he would include Islamists in any fu-

ture reshuffle, Sharif Zeid said: "There is no inclination to bring in the Islamists."

During the two-hour encounter with the journalists, Sharif Zeid revealed that his government has formulated a number of laws that would liberalise the economy and create the right atmosphere for investment in preparation for the Middle East and North African (MENA) Economic Summit that will be held in Amman in October.

He said the government had discussed the package extensively with the private sector. Asked whether he thought the draft laws would clear both Houses of Parliament before the extraordinary session ends in October, the prime minister jokingly said: "Do you want to bet?"

The prime minister, however, warned against exaggerated expectations from the summit.

"I myself am optimistic," he said. "But I warn against over-optimism. We want the conference to benefit the whole region."

Sharif Zeid said he thought the Jordanian economy was performing very



Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker

well despite "many voices of complaint." "Inflation in the past six months was only 0.2 per cent higher than in the first six months of 1994," he said. "All economic indicators are showing both could be improved."

He described Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti's visit to Riyadh early this month and the talks Mr. Kabariti held with Saudi leaders as "successful" and "warm."

The prime minister noted with satisfaction the U.S. Congress endorsement of the decision to write off \$750 million of debt to the U.S."

(Continued on page 7)

Israel, PLO say no hope of deal by Tuesday

NEWE ZOHAR, Israel (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) negotiators on Sunday ruled out reaching agreement by a July 25 deadline on extending Palestinian self-rule, as both sides resumed talks near the Dead Sea.

"In the coming days, and even in the coming weeks, there will not be a signing of an accord with the Palestinians for the extension of autonomy in the West Bank," Mr. Rabin said on a military radio station.

The Palestinians expressed the same scepticism, with their chief negotiator, Ahmad Qouriea, gloomily predicting it may be months before an agreement is sealed.

"Certainly between us and an agreement there remains a period that is not short," Mr. Qouriea, who is also the Palestinian economy "minister," told the Arabic daily Ashraq Al Awsat.

The 150 negotiators who broke off marathon talks on Friday after five days of intense meetings, resumed

their discussions at the Hotel Lot in Newe Zohar on the Israeli banks of the Dead Sea.

"We have come here to reach an accord and we are going to do our best to get there this week," Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfur told AFP here.

Mr. Qouriea called for more flexibility from the Israelis. "If the Israeli side presents reasonable and logical positions during talks perhaps we will sign soon. In any case it will not be next Tuesday," he said.

The two sides set a July 25 deadline to reach an accord on the second phase of autonomy, including an Israeli army redeployment on the occupied West Bank, elections to a self-rule council and a transfer of civil powers.

It is the second deadline this month after negotiators failed to nail down an accord by the earlier July 1 target date.

"If the Israelis want, we can make progress and conclude a deal tomorrow," Palestinian negotiator Bassam Al Masihi said in Newe

Zohar.

But a foreign ministry official said: "The main difficulty is that the Palestinians are continually changing their positions."

"What has been agreed is modified, at the last minute and divergences within the leadership of the Palestinian Authority are preventing progress."

He also acknowledged, however, that the Israelis were offering the Palestinians "much less than they were hoping for, on the issues of territory, water and security."

Water remains a main obstacle, along with a timetable for an Israeli military pullback from the towns of Ramallah, Bethlehem as well as Hebron, where 400 settlers live among 120,000 Palestinians.

Mr. Qouriea said the issue of water sharing was the subject of "difficult negotiations." The Israelis gave several ideas but we did not arrive at anything specific."

He said a special committee on water would be formed "to find reasonable

compromises," without giving further details.

Earlier, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres shed doubt on Palestinian willingness to sign an accord at the earliest, saying a delay "would be a mistake," on the PLO's part.

"It is a game of patience which we are used to. At the last minute each party tries to gain as much as they can," he told Israeli Television.

"Israel has creative solutions on the remaining differences and will keep them for the fast phase of the talks."

Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir told the daily Haaretz that Israel would "refuse to speed up artificially the talks" and risk damaging its interests. "We are in the final phase and now the true battle is starting," he said.

The two countries have predicted that an eventual accord will be signed in Washington, which hosted the landmark for the signing of the 1993 Declaration of Principles that led to the launch of self-rule.

Meanwhile, the Jerusalem Post Sunday quoted Israeli

officials as saying that Israel has agreed to let Palestinian police be deployed in all 460 Palestinian villages on the West Bank after an Israeli troop pullback.

"We will allow the Palestinians in these villages will provide law enforcement for the administrative authority. They will deal with only such issues as burglaries."

The blue police will ensure that Palestinians in these villages will provide law enforcement for the administrative authority. They will deal with only such issues as burglaries."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had earlier said he would not allow Palestinian police to be deployed in some villages such as round Jerusalem, those along the "Green Line" separating the West Bank from Israel and those in the Jordan Valley.

There was no comment available from his office Sunday.

The two countries have predicted that an eventual accord will be signed in Washington, which hosted the landmark for the signing of the 1993 Declaration of Principles that led to the launch of self-rule.

Meanwhile, Mr. Al Sahaf left Qatar for Morocco where he will rally support for Iraq's campaign and the sanctions.

Iraq "is contacting its brothers... to get their cooperation and solidarity with Iraq and the Iraqi people to have the sanctions lifted," he said when asked about the purpose of his visit to Morocco.

Iraq should prepare for "any possible showdown with the West over an end to the sanctions."

He recalled a July 17 warning that Iraq would stop

cooperating with the United Nations if sanctions were not lifted. Two days later Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sahaf gave UNSCOM an August ultimatum.

Mr. Al Sahaf said in Qatar on Sunday that Baghdad was "cooperating" with the U.N. on its germ warfare programme and "will ask for an end to the embargo" once it has given the required information, he said.

Meanwhile Mr. Al Sahaf left Qatar for Morocco where he will rally support for Iraq's campaign and the sanctions.

Iraq "is contacting its brothers... to get their cooperation and solidarity with Iraq and the Iraqi people to have the sanctions lifted," he said when asked about the purpose of his visit to Morocco.

Mr. Al Sahaf said he discussed in meetings with Qatari officials Baghdad's efforts for the lifting of U.N. sanctions.

He said Jordan "understands that Greece has special ties with Serbia" — both adhere to the Ortho-

West reinforces troops in Sarajevo

Heavy fighting reported around Zepa, Bihać

Bosnian premier calls King, H.M. says war must end

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received a phone call from Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic who informed him that the enclaves of Bihać and Zepa have been subjected to large-scale attacks and intensive shelling by the Serbian forces.

Mr. Silajdzic asked King Hussein to exert efforts to help end these attacks on the U.N.-declared "safe-havens."

King Hussein contacted the ambassadors of the five Security Council permanent members in Amman, and reiterated Jordan's condemnation of the Serbian aggression. The King underlined the importance of preserving the territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the need to ensure the safety and security of its people in accordance with international legitimacy.

The King also emphasised the need to confront the Serbs' aggression and back the Bosnian people's just struggle.

French President Jacques Chirac said his troops would not cave in to Serb military pressure in Bosnia and would strike back if attacked in Sarajevo.

Separatist Serbs have stepped up their attacks on Sarajevo and other U.N. "safe areas" despite warnings from Western governments on Friday that further aggression against Muslim enclaves would be met with a decisive military response.

One infantry company of the Devon and Dorset Regiment, with 16 warrior armoured fighting vehicles was also on its way.

"Their mission is to re-

(Continued on page 7)

Nabulsi says Petra committee following sound procedures

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi Sunday reiterated that a committee entrusted with the liquidation of Petra Bank was following sound procedures and was ready to present Parliament with a detailed report and full information clarifying any point that could be raised by Parliament.

Speaking after paying a visit to the Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Saad Hayel Srour with whom he discussed questions related to Parliament's debate of the Petra Bank question, Dr. Nabulsi denied that the CBJ or any other party was trying to prevent Parliament Member Fawaz Zoubi, who had earlier raised the question in Parliament, from acquiring information collected by the liquidation committee.

In 1989, an Economic Security Committee took over Petra Bank after gross irregularities surfaced and the bank defaulted on its obligations to the Central Bank. It ordered the bank to be liquidated through a special committee supervised and steered by the CBJ.

Dr. Nabulsi said books of accounts of the government-appointed liquidation committee were open for inspection.

In 1989, an Economic Security Committee took over Petra Bank after gross irregularities surfaced and the bank defaulted on its obligations to the Central Bank. It ordered the bank to be liquidated through a special committee supervised and steered by the CBJ.

One of the charges made by Mr. Zoubi was that the committee sold shares held by Petra Bank in the Cairo Amman Bank for a price lower than the market price.

Jordan urges Greece to help end Bosnian crisis

AMMAN (AP) — Jordan urged Greece on Sunday to use its good offices with Serbia to end attacks on Bosnian Muslims in the former Yugoslavia.

The Jordanian request was made by Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti during a two-hour meeting with his visiting Greek counterpart, Karlos Papoulias.

"We expressed the desire that Greece play a special role in undertaking practical and urgent measures to alleviate the suffering of the Bosnian people and put an end to the Serbian aggression on Bosnia and its people," Mr. Kabariti told reporters after meeting with Mr. Papoulias.

He said Jordan "understands that Greece has special ties with Serbia" — both adhere to the Ortho-

(Continued on page 7)

Carter ends Sudan visit without winning truce renewal

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter left here Sunday after meeting Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir without winning a renewal for a ceasefire in the country's 12-year civil war.

Mr. Carter told the press before leaving that he was unable to gain a commitment to the ceasefire which Khartoum announced during his last visit to Sudan in March and which is due to end July 31.

Earlier, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Gbazi Saladeen Atabani said Sudan was considering a peace plan proposed by Mr. Carter in a meeting with the minister late Saturday.

Mr. Carter, who early this year arranged a ceasefire in the war with southern rebels, arrived in Khartoum Saturday night after a meeting with the main rebel leader, John Garang, in Kampala, Uganda, earlier in the day.

On his return, Mr. Carter briefed Gbazi Atabani, minister of state for foreign affairs, on his meetings with Mr. Garang, another rebel leader, Riek Machar, and Presidents Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya and Yoweri Museveni of Uganda.

The official Sudan News Agency quoted Mr. Atabani as saying Mr. Carter presented "a specific proposal that we are now considering."

The details of Mr. Carter's plan were not known. The former president has said he would seek a two-month extension of the ceasefire that began in March. But he also suggested he would try to arrange a broader truce that could lead to negotiations.

Officials had no comment after Mr. Carter's meeting Sunday with Sudan's leader, Lt. Gen. Omar Al Bashir. Mr. Carter, 70, also met

with Gen. Bashir at the start of his trip last Wednesday, and officials then expressed reservations about an extension of the truce, saying it could allow the rebels to build up their forces.

Mr. Salehdeedan said he had repeated to Mr. Carter that Sudan would continue to seek peace "within principles any country maintains and which provide for unity, sovereignty and identity," the Sudanese News Agency (SUNA) reported.

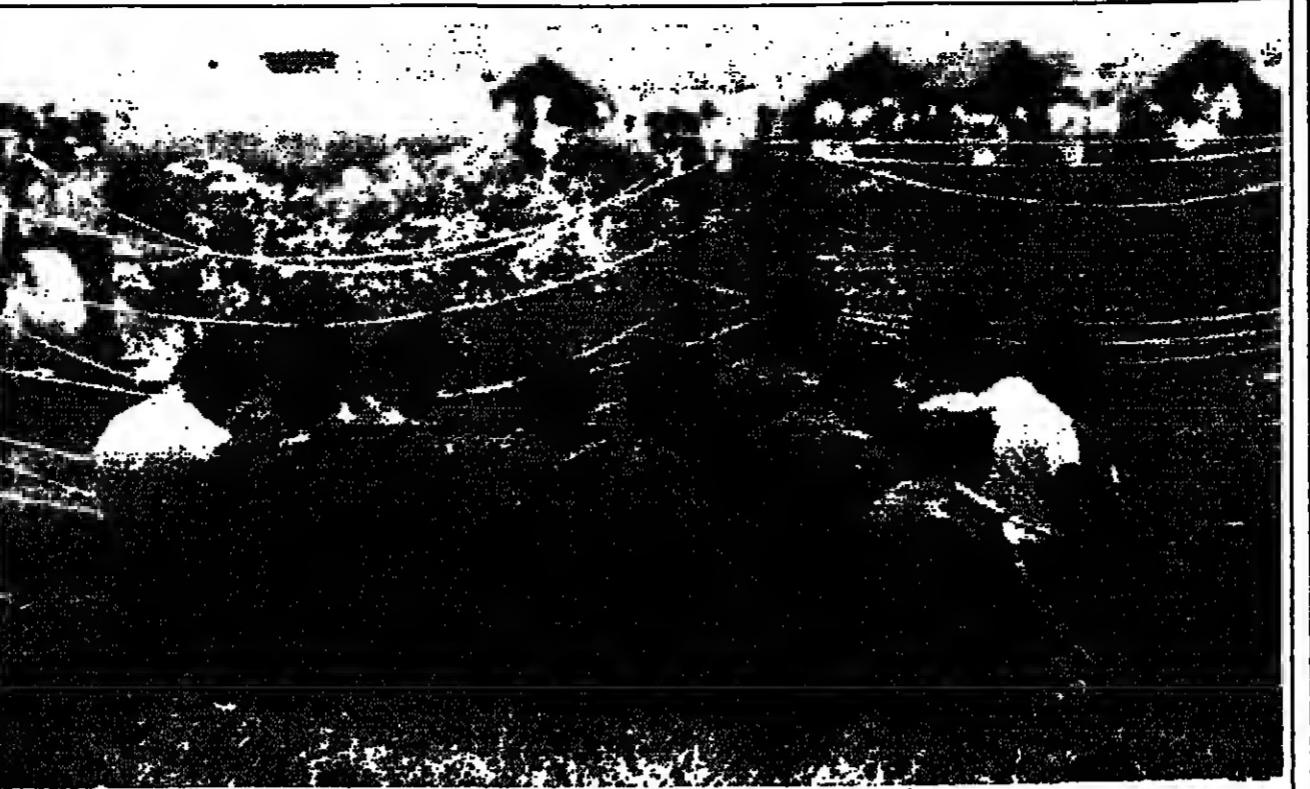
Sudan's Islamic fundamentalist government fears the rebels, mostly Christians or members of tribal faiths, want to split off southern Sudan into a new country. Mr. Garang's Sudan Peoples Liberation Army has been fighting since 1983 for more autonomy from the Muslim-dominated north.

Mr. Atabani also quoted Mr. Carter as offering his congratulations to Sudan on the release of three U.N. workers and two Sudanese who had been held hostage by the rebels, SUNA reported. Mr. Carter played a role in the freeing of the men last week.

Mr. Carter, who also has been visiting health projects in southern Sudan sponsored by the Carter Foundation, first arranged a two-month ceasefire as a means of furthering the campaign against disease. It was later extended but would run out at the end of this month.

If Mr. Carter succeeds in arranging negotiations, they would probably be overseen by group of neighbouring states including Kenya and Uganda. Earlier efforts by the neighbouring countries produced no results.

In Kampala, a U.S. embassy spokeswoman said that in Mr. Carter's talks with Mr. Garang "no concrete position was reached."



MIDDAY PRAYER: Jordanian U.N. soldiers hold their midday prayer at the edge of a refugee camp at Tuzla Airport. More than 22,000 Bosnian Muslim refugees have

found shelter here after fleeing their homes in Srebrenica, which fell to the Bosnian Serb forces last week (AFP photo).

Turkish parliament approves constitutional change

ANKARA (AFP) — The Turkish parliament has approved measures democratising the country's constitution, turning the page on the basic law inherited from the last military regime, the Anatolia agency said Sunday.

The new constitution, adopted with 360 deputies in favour and 32 against, provides for extending trades union rights, notably in the civil service, and lowering the voting age from 21 years to 18. The total package voted

into law early Sunday involved a total 23 amendments.

Constitutional reform was one of several conditions set by the European Parliament for ratification of a customs union agreement between Turkey and the European Union is approved.

Other conditions include greater freedom of expression in Turkey and the freeing of jailed Kurdish-origin legislators. The European Parliament is due to look at the

customs agreement later this year.

Under the reforms, university lecturers and students will be able to join political parties, and deputies will be free to change parties once they are elected. The number of deputies in parliament was increased from 450 to 550.

The Turkish constitution was passed by an overwhelming majority during a referendum in 1982 during the 1980-83 period of military rule.

Introductory passages

praising the putsch of 1980 will be deleted.

Seven articles in the reform package were rejected during parliamentary debates. Centre-right deputies rejected an amendment granting public sector employees the right to strike. But public sector unions will have the right to draw up collective labour agreements.

The reforms should take effect in the coming days, after being gazetted.

Top Iranian cleric blasts judiciary over graft

NICOSIA (AP) — A senior Iranian cleric, urging the judiciary to crack down on high-level corruption, has accused judges of dealing harshly with ordinary citizens while letting "big shots" off virtually scot-free.

Amid growing public pressure for government graft at a time when the economy is deteriorating, Ayatollah Ali Akbar Meshkini declared that when senior officials are

found guilty of embezzlement or wrongdoing, the authorities should "suck out the money from their filthy guts, firmly and decisively and give them what they deserve."

The radical Ayatollah Meshkini heads the 83-member Assembly of Experts which chooses Iran's supreme leader.

He was commenting on an explosive high-level embezzlement case now before the courts during a Friday

prayers sermon broadcast by Iran's state-run television network Saturday night.

Eight men, two of them still at large, are accused of misappropriating some \$235 million from the state-run bank Saderat, the biggest case involving embezzlement of public funds to go to trial since the Islamic Republic was founded in 1979.

What makes this case so politically sensitive is that one of the defendants is Mor-

teza Rafiqdoust, brother of Mohsen Rafiqdoust, a former Revolutionary Guards Corps minister and head of the foundation for the Oppressed and Disabled.

That is one of several "bona fide," or state conglomerates, which are supposed to help Iran's poor, who make up most of the country's 60 million population.

Five years on, Kuwait stays vigilant over Iraq

By William McClean
Reuter

KUWAIT — Five years ago Iraq challenged the world by rolling its tanks across virtually undefended desert into neighbouring Kuwait, which holds a tenth of the planet's oil reserves.

Today, their border of sand and scrub is one of the world's most heavily-guarded frontiers.

High above dunes shimmering in midsummer heat, U.S. spy planes and satellites keep constant vigil. A 32-nation U.N. Observer Forces patrols a demilitarised border strip.

And near Kuwait City, a large arsenal of high-tech heavy armour awaits an American Rapid Reaction Force that would fly to the rescue from bases overseas in case of trouble.

Kuwaitis are once again enjoying the good life — free health services and education, cheap public utilities, no income tax, petrol cheaper than bottled water and civil servants can resign on full pension after 20 years'

work or less.

The more affluent Kuwaiti men in flowing white robes show off gleaming Porsches and Ferraris on the Gulf seashore drive. They relax in designer jeans at fast-food restaurants, shop for jewellery with parents and siblings in posh boutiques and visit holiday homes in Europe, America, Egypt and Lebanon, sometimes with fleets of Asian nannies to look after the children.

But the residents of this tiny oil exporter are still traumatised.

All the machinery of international peacemaking and Western military might installed since the Aug. 2, 1990, invasion has failed to dispel concern about their northern neighbour.

"No past crisis, no former catastrophe in the history of this tiny nation, no adverse circumstances, no matter how dire, could in any way be compared with the traumatic experience of an unprecedented invasion," Rasha Al Sabah, professor of comparative literature at Kuwait University.

We slept on the night of Aug. 1, 1990, as free citizens of a sovereign state, only to wake up and discover in the early hours of the following morning that we had lost our sovereignty and national identity.

Kuwaitis' continuing misgivings stem largely from the political survival of one man — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"Unfortunately evil has still not been rooted out in our region," said Kuwaiti Ambassador Sheikh Mohammad Al Sabah. "Saddam is still in power."

Kuwaitis had an unnerving flashback to 1990 last October when Saddam sent tens of thousands of troops towards the border in a move widely seen as pressure for the lifting of sanctions.

The move foreshadowed and Baghdad gave in to world pressure to recognise the country it once called its 19th province.

But Kuwaitis say they would only start to take Iraqi recognition seriously if and when Saddam left

power.

And the 10-day crisis cost Kuwait hundreds of millions of dollars in payments, mainly to the United States, for Western military support that was rushed in to counter the threat.

"The Iraqi buildup of last October is strong evidence that we cannot go to sleep on our watch," Sheik Mohammad said.

"We hope and pray that there will be no war. We must always be prepared. I subscribe to the old adage that the surest way to prevent a war is to be prepared for one."

The October incident underlined the importance to Kuwait of its economic security, diplomats say, because Kuwait's best defence will remain its ability to pay allies to protect it.

Its army is small and as yet only partially rearmmed.

Kuwait's share of the costs of the 1991 Gulf war that ended Iraq's occupation, and its payments for oilfield repairs, rearmament and handouts to citizens wiped out billions

of dollars held overseas against the day when oil runs out.

Remaining financial reserves are threatened by a budget deficit running at a fifth of gross domestic product. Continuing deficits would wipe out the reserves within 15 years.

Big-spending officials have given little sign they can curb welfare state generosity and meet a pledge to eliminate the budget deficit by the year 2000.

Many doubt the state can go on providing unproductive civil service jobs for all graduates, and while Saddam remains in power, most wealthy Kuwaitis will keep investing overseas.

Businessmen have resumed buying property in Europe, Asia and the Americas, ostensibly for investment but some admit they also value them as havens if Saddam comes across the border.

Kuwait can boast a string of post-war achievements, including the rebuilding of the oil industry, the revival of the only

in contrast, the achievements most admired by the West are the revival of an outspoken assembly and a measure of free speech in the region.

Kuwait's saving grace is that it is such an open society, a senior Western diplomat said. "Just when I think I've finally had enough (of Kuwait), I pick up the newspaper and read. It is enormously redeeming, the readiness for public give and take."

Businessmen have

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwait's phone pests nabbed

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti authorities disconnected 4,288 telephone subscribers for making obscene or nuisance calls in the first six months of 1995 and referred 1,698 of them to police for investigation, newspapers reported Sunday. About 3,000 telephone lines were monitored in the period to enable abusive callers to those numbers to be traced, the English-language Kuwait Times and Arab Times quoted Ministry of Communication official Adel Al Ibrahim as saying. Mr. Ibrahim said the ministry was extremely concerned about people abusing the system. Residents of the emirate, in particular women, say telephone pests are a frequent nuisance. He added several people had been detained for telephone tapping, an activity he said was carried out by people of low morality or delinquents. Newspapers have said phone tapping has become a popular activity among some affluent young men who buy cordless phones with expensive surveillance gadgets.

Record July rains fall on UAE

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) — Record July rains fell on the deserts of the United Arab Emirates after the monsoon took a wider path than usual, meteorologists said Sunday. Forty millimetres (1.6 inches) fell overnight Saturday on Al Ain and 35 millimetres (1.4 inches) on Sharjah, the highest rainfall in July since record-keeping started there in the 1930s, they said. Seventeen millimetres (.68 inches) fell in Dubai, the highest since record-keeping began there in 1967. The previous records were 5 millimetres (.02 inches) in Dubai in 1988, 12.7 millimetres (.5 inches) in Al Ain in 1992, and 15.6 millimetres (.6 inches) in Sharjah in 1958. The rain also brought cooler temperatures than usual. The maximum temperature was expected to be 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit), about 10 degrees lower than normal. "It is a spinoff from the monsoon, but it is a bit unusual for us to get as much rainfall out of the monsoon," a forecaster said. The monsoons travel north from the Indian Ocean, then spread east and west from Himalayas and the mountains of Iran. Parts of Oman usually receive some of the monsoons but not the United Arab Emirates. The mean annual rainfall for Dubai is 85 millimetres (3.4 inches), mostly coming in February as well as January and March.

3 Egyptians arrested in Denmark

COPENHAGEN (AFP) — Three Egyptian Muslim militants have been arrested in Denmark for planning to blow up the Israeli embassy in a series of bomb attacks, the Danish press agency, Ritzau, reported. Prosecutor General Peter Broendt Joergensen from Viborg, 230 kilometres (140 miles) northwest of Copenhagen, ordered the three linked to the outlawed Gamma Al Islamiyah to be arrested after a secret inquiry, the agency reported late Saturday. Two of the men are accused of planning six bomb attacks in the Danish capital, including on the Israeli embassy in Hellerup, in the Copenhagen suburbs. Mohammad Abdul Halim Mohammad Fahim, 43, and Abdul Hakem Mohammad Atia Soliman, 37, bought chemicals to make explosives between the end of 1992 and November 1993, according to the prosecutor's office. The third man was named as Mohammad Shaaban Mohammad Hassanein, 31. He has been accused with the other two of breaking the law on group activities. Egypt has repeatedly accused European countries, and in particular Denmark, of sheltering militants from outlawed armed groups which have waged a three-year campaign to topple the government.

UAE fund finances 7,000 teenagers

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A fund created by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) president to encourage Emiratis to marry fellow-nationals has financed nearly 7,000 weddings, officials said Sunday. The fund's director, Jamal Bah, said his organisation was considering increasing its capital in the face of strong demand for grants, designed to increase the proportion of Emiratis citizens in the country. Nationals account for around one third of the UAE's population of nearly 2.2 million. They became a minority after thousands of foreigners began streaming in following the discovery of oil in the early 1960s. Officials said they were encouraging men to have native wives after a sharp increase in the number of unmarried women, a phenomenon they described as worrying given the conservative nature of bedouin society. "There is a strong demand for the fund and this has prompted us to study increasing its capital," Jamal Bah told AFP Sunday. The Marriage Fund was set up by President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan to help men after a steep rise in dowries, the money paid by the bridegroom to his bride under Islamic Law. In some cases, dowries exceed \$100,000. An official report marking 29 years of Sheikh Zayed's rule in the UAE's biggest emirate, Abu Dhabi, said the fund had extended grants to around 7,000 men since it was created four years ago.

3rd teenager dies from Israel stampede

TEL AVIV (R) — A third teenager has died after being injured when thousands of rock fans pushed their way into a full concert ground last week during a music festival in southern Israel, Israel Radio said Sunday. The girl, 15, from Rishon LeZion near Tel Aviv, never regained consciousness after the stampede in the city of Arad, on Tuesday. Last week, police said two other fans were trampled to death and 95 people injured. The stampede occurred at what was to be the last performance by Israel's 10-year-old leading rock group Mashina. The deaths sent shock waves throughout the country, forcing organisers to cancel the festival and prompting a national debate over the moral conduct of the country's youth.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel 311-10

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 ... Animal World

14:30 ... Heart Beat

15:00 ... Survival

16:00 ... Family

17:00 ... News in French

19:15 ... French Varieties

19:30 ... News Headlines

19:35 ... Camp Wilder

20:00 ... McHale's Navy

20:30 ... The Bold and the Beautiful

21:15 ... Hearts of the West

22:30 ... The Ruth Kellrell Mysteries

23:25 ... The Ruth Kellrell Mysteries

Film: "The Old Man and the Sea"

PRAYER TIMES

14:10 ... Far

18:49 ... Sunrise Dhu

18:22 ... Dhu

18:22 ... Asr

20:21 ... Magrib

21:14 ... I

Sri Lanka prepares for fresh bid to end ethnic war

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lanka is on the verge of unveiling a political package aimed at ending its ethnic bloodletting and will appoint an interim administration in troubled regions within a week, official sources said.

The government of President Chandrika Kumaratunga is expected to announce this week proposals to resolve the drawn out ethnic conflict which has claimed over 50,000 lives in the past 23 years, the sources said.

"The government wants to first appraise all political parties during the week and then have an interim council established before the month is out," a Tamil legislator said after a series of talks with government ministers.

The government was offering "very extensive devolution" of power to minority Tamils in exchange for ethnic peace in this majority Sinhala nation of 17.5 million people, the sources said.

They said the proposals were most likely to call for an Indian-model constitution where the unitary character would be retained while granting greater autonomy to smaller units.

14 people killed in Burundi violence

BUJUMBURA (R) — Fourteen people were killed in two separate violent incidents in Burundi, including an attack on students at a university in the capital Bujumbura, state radio reported.

Eight people were killed in the raid on Kiriri University campus, the radio said in a

came to power in August promising an end to the bloodshed.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, a member of the majority Sinhala community, is now expected to address the nation later this week on her proposals that would allow minority Tamils a greater say in the administration of their own affairs.

Official sources said Mrs. Kumaratunga was keen to set up an interim administrative mechanism for the embattled northern and eastern regions pending elections in the strife-torn region.

"There are areas in the Northeast brought under military control, it is possible to revive the civil administration in those places and for that a political body is necessary," a government source said.

Similar bids to resolve the conflict ended in failure and led to more bloodshed with the LTTE calling the shots in the northern and eastern regions, particularly in the Jaffna peninsula where most of the Tamils are concentrated.

Tamil sources who did not want to be named said they were sounded out by the gov-

ernment last week to win their support for the proposed political package which is in line with sweeping constitutional reforms.

To introduce the Tamil package as well as constitutional reforms the government needs a two thirds support in the national parliament and also approval at a nation-wide referendum.

The government which has only a one-seat majority must win the support of the main opposition United National Party (UNP) to press ahead with the package and Minister Peiris said informal talks showed that there was broad agreement.

Meanwhile an opinion poll Sunday showed President Kumaratunga's popularity slipping but that she still enjoyed the people's confidence over her handling of the bloody 12-year conflict with Tamil separatists.

Thirty-two per cent of those questioned were not satisfied with her overall performance compared to just 19 per cent in March, according to a survey conducted last month by Research International and the U.S.-based Mitofsky International.

China blasts Taiwan president

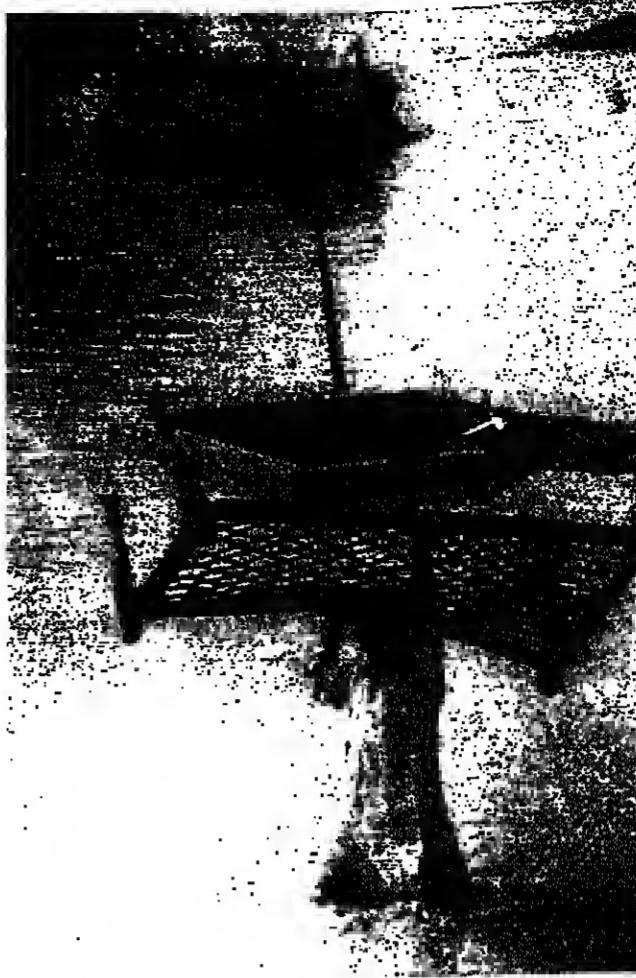
BEIJING (R) — China Sunday accused President Lee Teng-Hui of rival Taiwan of plotting to declare the island an independent nation and of revealing his plans during a private visit to the United States last month.

Mr. Lee's U.S. trip has enraged Beijing, sending Sino-U.S. relations into a nosedive and prompting China to announce and carry out missile tests just north of Taiwan in an apparent direct military threat to the island.

The 1.2 billion Chinese people have long made up their minds never to allow the plot of "independence of Taiwan" in any form to succeed.

Officials also said a surge of water set off by the fresh

Over 100 feared dead in Pakistan floods



A man takes out his bed as flood water surrounds several houses in an area of Abdullah Goth at the border of Sind and Baluchistan province. Hundreds of people have been shifted to other areas of the city as heavy monsoon rains flood areas and disturb normal life (AFP photo)

marooned and more than 300 villages inundated as flood waters inundated areas of flood along with motor boats, etc.," Trump said.

Newspapers said some 50,000 people were

trapped to the area, along with motor boats, etc.," Trump wrote.

"This money was given to you for your protection and so that it may some day go to the children," he said.

"I am not particularly happy seeing you blow money on boats, town houses, etc.," Trump said.

"We are facing rough weather which makes normal relief operations impossible," he said.

On the mainland, rain and wind whipped up flooded rivers, preventing relief supplies from being sent to stricken areas.

Meanwhile, a battle to save the Chandpur River Port in the country's southeast resumed Sunday, officials said.

Rains inundated areas in Char

Faslon and several islands of the coastal district of Bholo.

"We are facing rough weather which makes normal relief operations impossible," he said.

The floods, triggered by rain and water sweeping in from India early this month, have killed at least 215 people.

Ministers," Mr. Bruce thundered.

Heseltine, who has a new press nickname to go with the job — "Lion King" instead of "Larzan" — has by all accounts wasted no time throwing his weight around.

Newspaper said "Home Secretary" Michael Howard threatened to resign after Mr. Heseltine gave "the freedom to roam

across government departments, invaded his territory.

And this week Mr. Major named Mr. Heseltine to head a powerful new cabinet committee to oversee Britain's industrial and competitive policies, giving him the scope to exert influence over many parts of the government machine.

But if the Lion King has really become the power behind the throne, why, his detractors wanted to know.

He would certainly be utterly discredited and stand condemned by the Chinese nation through the ages," Xinhua said.

It accused Mr. Lee of betraying his early membership of the Communist Party and later its rival, the Nationalist Party, which he now heads in a commentary Sunday.

He said China could strike Taiwan from bases in its in-

terior.

China, which has viewed Taiwan as a renegade province since a civil war in 1949, vowed to use force against it if it declares formal independence.

He added that one of the missiles had completely missed its target area but did not say where it had landed. Two others landed on the target area's southern edge.

State television said the missiles were launched from a town called Leping in the southern Chinese province of Jiangxi and flew in a south easterly direction for more than 300 miles (480 kilometers) to the target area.

The military official did not deny the television report, which if accurate, makes it clear that China could strike Taiwan from bases in its in-

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World News

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, JULY 24 1995, 5



A unidentified man cries after the fire burned down his home as a large forest fire raged unabated north of Athens.

Greece 'optimistic' on beating massive forest fire

ATHENS (AFP) — A massive forest fire described by Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou as a "biblical catastrophe" raging northeast of Athens could be under control by evening, Greek officials said Sunday.

The blaze, which has lasted three days, has destroyed one of the last green spaces near Athens — already the most polluted capital in Europe.

Defence Minister Nikos Kouris said the fire had laid waste to some 6,000 hectares (14,820 acres) of pine forest.

He added: "A third of the forests will have to be cleared."

The area is considered

Athens' "last green lung" in a capital considered the most polluted in Europe. Mr. Papandreou said the area would be reforested.

Officials said the fire no longer represented a threat to inhabited areas, although firefighters warned that the situation remained unstable and could deteriorate in the event of a change in wind strength or direction.

Earlier reports suggested hundreds of homes and public buildings had been damaged by the fire. In fact, said Mr. Moraitis, around 45 buildings were damaged.

Flames formed a broken ring over a front 20

kilometres in length, not far from the other Athens suburbs of Ekal and Drossa.

All 1,500 available firefighters were called out to tackle the fire.

At one point Saturday Mr. Papandreou described the

fire as a "biblical catastrophe," after emerging from an emergency cabinet meeting.

The high winds eased Sunday to around force five on the Beaufort Scale, helping the firefighters in their task.

They were also supported by six Greek airplanes, an Italian Canadair and a French Fokker which dropped water on the fire, in their battle against the fire.

Elsewhere in Greece, a second place sent from France, a reconnaissance aircraft, has been sent to a second forest fire burning fiercely near Aigion, 150

kilometres west of Athens.

Secret U.K. Sinn Fein talks enrage Protestants

BELFAST (IR) — Furious pro-British Protestant politicians pressed Britain Sunday to come clean about the agenda of a top-secret Northern Ireland meeting last week between ministers and the IRA's political wing. —Sinn Fein.

Britain was forced to confirm the ground-breaking "private meeting" after Dublin's Sunday Tribune newspaper reported that Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew had met Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams in Londonderry Tuesday.

It said Junior Northern Ireland Minister Michael Ancram and Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, in recent bilateral exploratory talks, also took part.

Practically every move that pleases Sinn Fein, which wants northern Ireland to become part of the Irish Republic, enrages leaders of the province's Protestant majority who want no change to its status.

The meeting, aimed at easing growing tension in the British-ruled province's 11-month peace process, ended months of deadlock between the two sides but fanned Protestant fears.

An unexpected report of about 400 people to welcome the new government, at no time with her husband, in advance to a home separation, had been seen at the airport in this city on people, it is said. A few weeks earlier, Mr. Adams from Lahore through the wire "exit" but later the VIP channel she was whisked limousine, some

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All eight crewmen were reported missing, Yonhap News Agency said.

An oil tanker, the 140,000-tonne Cyprus-registered Sea Prince, with 21 crewmen aboard was also in trouble off the southern coast of Yonhap.

Two railway workers trying to repair a coastal line torn up by the waves, were

The Sea Prince was car-

testant politicians' suspicions of secret deals.

Confirming the meeting, the Northern Ireland Office was frank with the people of Northern Ireland because this sort of behavior is only going to create deep uncertainty and anxiety in the community," said David Trimble, a senior parliamentarian in the dominant Ulster Unionist Party.

"There has to be a full statement by the Northern Ireland Office as soon as possible," he told Reuters.

It was Sir Patrick's first known meeting in Northern Ireland with Mr. Adams since the Irish Republican Army stopped its 25-year fight against British rule last September, opting to pursue

its goal of a reunified Ireland through Sinn Fein in all-party talks.

Their only other acknowledged meeting was a brief session in Washington in May on the "merging of a U.S. government conference promoting investment in post-ceasefire Northern Ireland."

Sir Patrick's subsequent refusal to speak to Mr. Adams publicly in the province itself provoked Sinn Fein claims of political discrimination.

Britain has consistently held out against multilateral talks until the IRA, and its foes in fiercely pro-British guerrilla forces, hand over massive stockpiles of arms to prove their commitment to long-term peace.

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Typhoon smashes into S. Korea; 40 missing, ship sunk

SEOUL (AFP) — Typhoon Faye smashed onto the southern coast of South Korea Sunday, sending mountainous waves smashing into ships and ports, uprooting rail lines and leaving more than 40 missing or dead, weathermen and reports said.

A 1,000-ton cargo ship, the Fairplay, with three Koreans, two Indians and three Chinese crewmen on board, was reported to have sunk near the southern port of Yonhap — the first hit by Faye — after being hurled onto a seawall.

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washed into the sea and were reported missing.

In the southeastern port of Pusan, a police officer disappeared while trying to rescue three fishermen. All four were carried away in heavy seas, the reports said.

Television footage showed scores of small boats and port facilities battered by waves smashing over the sea walls, cars that had been blown off roads, roofs whipped off by the winds and trees uprooted.

Yonhap News Agency said dozens of small craft were sunk, smashed, washed ashore or adrift in the raging seas.

The huge waves spawned by Faye crashed into Yonhap and other nearby southern coastal towns, destroying railroads and rice fields, Yonhap said.

Weathermen said the

typhoon, the third of the year, was expected to rampage through the southern provinces before dissipating over the Sea of Japan.

Earlier Sunday the weathermen had issued typhoon warnings in the country's southern and eastern provinces.

Government officials were on emergency footing.

Holiday-makers and some 40,000 fishing boats and ferries in southern coastal areas had taken shelter in safe areas before the typhoon hit, and residents in low-lying areas warned to head for the high ground.

However 11 young hikers in the mountains behind Yonhap were stranded after being cut off by flash floods triggered by Faye's torrential rains, KBS said.

Seoul prosecutors, blaming shoddy workmanship for the disaster, have charged Lee Joon, founder and owner of the store, and three other executives with criminal negligence.

Officials were checking missing reports after two were found to have been false and one was withdrawn.

Since last Tuesday, rescue workers have dug out 25 pieces of human and body parts and more than 1,000 items believed to belong to the victims from a waste dump on the outskirts of Seoul where tonnes of wreckage from the store were dumped.

They have also said several others, including architects and construction-firm executives in charge of design and engineering work at the store, would face arrest.

Relatives rampage at Seoul store collapse site

SEOUL (AP) — Angry relatives of people still missing from last month's Seoul department store collapse have rampaged through the capital's streets, clashing with riot police and destroying police vehicles, witnesses said Sunday.

They said relatives of 140 people listed as missing from June 29 disaster held a 12-hour protest that ended early Sunday demanding the resumption of search operations for the remains of victims entombed in the store's rubble.

The protesters clashed with riot police when they were prevented from staging a sit-in at the store site to demand an apology from Seoul Mayor Cho Soon and the resumption of search operations.

They also burned two police vehicles.

Around midnight the relatives were stopped from marching on a nearby building, home to the city's rescue and

recovery operations, which was being visited by Mr. Cho.

The protesters exploded

gasoline and butane gas containers when Mr. Cho refused to meet them and hurled water bottles at Mr. Cho's car as he left, witnesses said.

Official at the Emergency Task Force Office said 137 people were still classified as missing from the collapse, which has claimed at least 458 lives.

He said there were still 60 unidentified bodies included both in the death toll and in the missing list.

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victims from a waste dump on the outskirts of Seoul where

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store were dumped.

The work began after rela-

tives feared some of those missing might have been moved with the rubble.

Mr. Cho, elected only two days before the disaster took place, has said the city government will conduct safety checks of 220 public buildings, including office buildings, hospitals and hotels that are 10 stories or higher.

Seoul prosecutors, blaming shoddy workmanship for the disaster, have charged Lee Joon, founder and owner of the store, and three other executives with criminal negligence.

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Jordan Times

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Established 1975

جريدة عربية مستقلة يومية باللغة الإنجليزية من قبل مؤسسة الأردن للطباعة والنشر

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Better deal for Baghdad

BAGHDAD'S PARDONING of thousands of army deserters and other prisoners is a timely move in that country's untiring attempts to end the 5-year-old sanctions imposed by the U.N. following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The move that signals a major improvement to the human rights situation in that country coincides with an Iraqi diplomatic offensive to win more countries to its side. Significant among these moves was the release of two Americans jailed for illegally entering Iraq from Kuwait and the visit that the Iraqi foreign minister, Mohammad Saeed Sahaf, recently made to Egypt and his meeting with his counterpart Amr Musa.

But all these moves came along with an Iraqi warning that it would end cooperation with the U.N. if the Security Council failed to end the sanctions by the time of the next review in September.

The Iraqis seem to be telling the world that they feel they have done whatever is required of them under the terms of the Security Council resolutions and since they see no end to the demands made by some of the Council's permanent members they would opt for ending their cooperation with the Council.

Whether this is a real threat or just a ploy to test the waters is immaterial. The truth is the Iraqi people and leadership feel that they are unjustifiably being targeted and that they see no end to their plight. Furthermore, it seems to the Iraqis and to other Arab and Muslim countries and people that Iraq is being victimised by the West far longer than is justified by the invasion of Kuwait, especially when others, like the European Serbs, are getting away with genocide.

Surely, the U.N. work in Iraq, including inspection, verification and elimination of mass-destruction weapons can still continue after the sanctions, which were originally tied to Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, are lifted. The Iraqi people, for all purposes and intent, are unjustly and inhumanely being subjected to a ruthless embargo that is having its toll on the children, women and the elderly.

After five years of hardship and continued cooperation with the world community Iraq deserves a better deal from the U.N.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING ON the reported American decision to write off all of Jordan's official debts to the United States, Al Ra'i Arabic daily said the move is doubtless deeply appreciated by the Jordanian people. With this decision as conveyed, Washington has honoured its commitment to Jordan and pledges by President Clinton to help the Kingdom get rid of its debt burden so as to direct its attention towards reconstruction and development in the peace era, said the paper. The United States considers Jordan's role pivotal in the peacemaking process and it is no doubt trying to bolster its ties with the Kingdom in order to enhance the peace and give impetus to stability and security in this region, said the paper. Through the coming Middle East and North Africa economic summit, said the paper, Jordan is trying to build on the peace and to pave the ground for fruitful regional cooperation and there is no doubt that Washington appreciates this Jordanian role and is keen on honouring its commitments to the Kingdom. It is hoped, said the paper, that the American decision will be followed by sincere and strong American support for Jordanian efforts to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace encompassing the whole region.

DESCRIBING a decision by major world powers on Bosnia Herzegovina as mere lip service to the Bosnian people, Al Dustour daily said the Serbs do not feel threatened nor do they feel they are forced to halt their attacks and their massacres against the Bosnian population. The paper said the decision by the London conference on Bosnia was not better than resolutions passed by the U.N. Security Council and threats by NATO against the Serbs, who seem more determined to pursue their ethnic cleansing campaign and their barbaric attacks on the Bosnians. As a direct result of the London conference and its decision, the Serbs escalated their attacks against the Bosnians and displayed renewed defiance of the world community's will, said the paper. We were not surprised by the fragile decision and we are not surprised either to hear the defiant Serb statements simply because world capitals are turning a blind eye vis-a-vis the atrocities though they continue to condemn them by mere slogans, said the paper.

South Africa: 'A mortal blow to racism'

By Adam Jones

AS SO often in South Africa, a photograph sums it up. At the moment of victory in last month's Rugby World Cup, Francois Pienaar, captain of the Springboks, drops to one knee and raises his hands to his face. It looks for all the world as though he is thanking God for deliverance.

Forty-three million South Africans glowed in that June triumph. None seemed as exuberant as President Nelson Mandela, who wore a Springboks cap and jersey for the occasion.

Less than two months earlier, on April 26, Mr. Mandela had celebrated a much larger deliverance. In Pretoria, the administrative capital, Mr. Mandela commemorated Freedom Day — the first anniversary of the advent of majority rule in South Africa. A year after his African National Congress (ANC) swept to power and predominance in a government of national unity, the broad consensus that paved the way for an end to white rule still holds.

And with Mr. Mandela at the helm, it seems to grow stronger by the week. The euphoria surrounding the anniversary, which was matched and even surpassed by the Springboks' moment of glory, could not entirely erase a more grim reality. To be black in South Africa is still, for the great majority, to be down-trodden, pauperised, and cruelly under-educated. But it is no longer to suffer the thousand petty humiliations of apartheid, to be forbidden the right to live and seek work where one chooses, and to be denied the chance to vote for a say in one's future.

To be white is still to be inordinately privileged. In Johannesburg, the nation's largest city, the white suburbs — with their Old Country names like Hyde Park, Sandton, Parkwood — remain oases of space and comfort. Mansions are the norm here, and five or six families live on each block, compared with five or six thousand in the predominantly black neighbourhoods closer to downtown.

Indeed, for suburban whites, it might seem that little has changed from the luxurious days of old. Swimming pools, jacuzzis, and evening braais (barbecues) are staples of their lifestyle. There is no shortage of black domestic workers: the white visitor to Johannesburg can expect to be stopped in the street by middle-aged women, asking the 'boss' whether he needs any help around the house.

The impoverished residents may prove fertile ground for the 'populist'

The consensus that led to South Africa's transition guaranteed whites that the economy would be left largely in private (i.e., their) hands. A Reconstruction and Development Programme is set to funnel billions of rands into improving the lot of the black masses. But more than a year into the era of majority rule, black-owned businesses still account for less than half of one per cent of the capitalised value of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, South Africa's economic bellwether.

Over 40 per cent of employed Afrikaners (white South Africans of Dutch descent) work for the state. To win their support for the transition, these civil servants were assured that affirmative action would not displace them from their jobs. Blacks, meanwhile, were guaranteed strong proactive measures to ensure that workplaces across South Africa became more "representative" of a society where blacks constitute three-quarters of the population.

Those best able to exploit the new environment are the members of the small black professional class, well educated (often overseas) and upwardly mobile. They, the editor of a local paper told me, are "black gold," eagerly headhunted by white-owned companies anxious to correct the embarrassing colour imbalance in their ranks. Many of the black professionals job-hop every few months for higher pay, a nicer company car, or a posting to Cape Town, away from the grime and crime of "Jo'burg."

They are the lucky ones. The government's extended honeymoon is now at an end, and there is little doubt that it has failed to deliver benefits to the population in line with the extravagant promises Mr. Mandela and Co. made in the run-up to last year's elections.

A much-touted government housing scheme, for example, vowed to erect a million dwellings over five years. Shortly before the first anniversary of majority rule, the government grudgingly came up with a progress report: a mere 878 houses had been built.

Millions of black South Africans still live in squalid conditions, like the residents of the squatter camp I visited on the fringe of Soweto. On two barren fields divided by a small stream, hundreds of tumbledown shacks had been erected from cardboard and corrugated tin.

Rape, robbery, and street crime are endemic in Jo'burg. "Don't walk downtown ever," one white South African told me. "Take a taxi to where you want to go, and call for one to pick you up afterward."

As an orator, Mr. Mandela is far from spectacular. He has a ready voice and a somewhat monotonous, declamatory speaking

wing of the ANC, headed by Mr. Mandela's estranged wife, Winnie. The populists have persistently pointed to the government's coziness with the white elite, at the expense of the dispossessed millions who thrust the ANC into office.

And yet I, a solitary white, was able to wander unmoleded through the camp, and through surrounding poor neighbourhoods of Soweto, a black township that is now home to two million people. This shows, just how far South Africa has come from the chaos and carnage of the 1980s and early 1990s.

Even on streets where the Pan-Africanist Congress had painted one of its favourite slogans — "One (white) settler, one bullet" — I encountered only cheery grins and ringing "hellos" from the locals. If I was approached, it was to ask for a coin or a cigarette, or just to chat.

Two years ago, few whites in their right minds would have entered a township, and never alone. The war waged by the South African state against its own people has spilled over into fratricidal bloodletting among blacks. Hundreds were dying here, hacked by pangas (an African killing implement resembling a machete), or mowed down by AK-47 machine guns. Whites like American student Amy Biehl, murdered near Cape Town in 1993, were regularly targeted by black militants.

The violence is still a palpable presence. South Africa has the world's second highest homicide rate, after Colombia; and the overwhelming majority of victims are black. Johannesburg is often called the world's most dangerous city.

Whites in Jo'burg live behind high walls, and car-jackings are a constant threat: there were 3,900 of them last year in one northern suburb alone. A friend of a friend made the mistake of resisting the robber who was about to relieve him of his late-model BMW. The thief pulled a pistol, held it to the owner's head, and said: "This is how it feels to die, white man." He pulled the trigger. By accident or design, the gun didn't fire. The thief sped away with his new prize, leaving the owner gibbering on the ground.

Rape, robbery, and street crime are endemic in Jo'burg. "Don't walk downtown ever," one white South African told me. "Take a taxi to where you want to go, and call for one to pick you up afterward."

As an orator, Mr. Mandela is far from spectacular. He has a ready voice and a somewhat monotonous, declamatory speaking

style. But as a conversationalist and a peace-seeker, he is supreme. To see him in a televised discussion is to marvel at the craftsmanship of his comments, the keenness of his mind. He is a master strategist and, most would say, a true visionary.

He also seems a humble man. Kaizer Nyatsumba, political editor of the Johannesburg Star, told me he felt Mr. Mandela had "dictatorial tendencies" arising from his status and self-image as a "patriarchal African figure." But he allowed that Mr. Mandela is "a very modest man who never takes credit for himself."

The problem, Mr. Nyatsumba said, is that "Mandela may well be everything good, but he will not be around every time or forever. His successor will be a very different person altogether."

And Mr. Mandela is 70.

South Africans virtually across the racial and political spectrum pray he has another 10 years left in him — of life, if not of active leadership. Long enough for the slow wheels of constitution-building to grind to a conclusion. Long enough for the benefits of majority rule to become apparent to the black masses.

The man is an anachronism, though there are many like him. Most Afrikaners are accommodating themselves to the new order. Even more readily, English South Africans have accepted that a black liberation movement now rules the roost. "We have delivered a mortal blow to racism," Nelson Mandela pronounced on TV before the Freedom Day celebrations. I believe he was right.

F.W. de Klerk, the last apartheid president, plods along in his new duties as deputy president. On television recently, Mr. Mandela praised his performance. There was a delicious irony in witnessing this black president, a former prisoner of white rule, passing judgment on Mr. De Klerk — once Mr. Mandela's jailer, now his junior partner.

"Few would argue that Mr. Mandela himself has been the glue that has held the fragile transition process together. His party may flounder, but his personal appeal is very nearly universal. At rallies, it is others — Deputy President and heir apparent Thabo Mbeki, for example — who get the lukewarm claps, and Mr. Mandela the lusty cheers.

I'd love to see a paper that's 'not for blacks, not for whites, not for (mixed-race) coloureds,' Mr. Matibala told me. "Whether it's a 'white' story or a 'black' story, if it's a good story we should put it on page one. That's my dream."

The front-page news in South Africa these days is that things so far are working better than almost anyone dared hope.

The writer, who is a Ph.D.

candidate conducting research in Jordan, was recently in South Africa. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

A guerrilla war with a difference

By Moses Manoharan
Reuter

COLOMBO — A classic guerrilla war is unfolding in Sri Lanka but with a deadly modern twist.

The government sent thousands of troops backed by war planes and naval ships on an offensive on July 9 to crush the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on the Jaffna peninsula in the north.

The Tigers, who in April called off a truce to resume a 12-year conflict for their own homeland, are in turn employing time-tested 'hit-and-run' guerrilla warfare tactics to harass the troops on the ground.

But here the similarity with other long guerrilla wars in Malaya to Vietnam ends.

"They are beyond guerrilla fighters," retired air vice marshal Harry Goonatilake, a former chief of the Sri Lankan air force, told Reuters on Sunday.

"Which guerrilla army in the world has a sea arm. Which guerrilla army in the world has an air arm?" Mr. Goonatilake asked of the bloody conflict, which has killed more than 50,000 people since 1983.

The sighting of an airstrip built by the rebels has led military strategists to believe the rebels have light aircraft.

They already own a fleet of boats converted into attack vessels that they use to harass the Sri Lankan navy and ply the waters around the island.

The LTTE is using these arms with telling effect to counter the advantage enjoyed by the military in the air and on sea.

The Tigers shot down an air force fighter on the very first day of the offensive, code-named Operation Leap Forward, using what diplomats believe was a SAM 7, surface-to-air missile similar to the ones used to shoot down two other air force planes in April.

On sea, the Tigers sent suicide squads to blow up a command ship used to transport troops, food and equipment to Jaffna.

The sinking has disrupted the planned advance of the forces bidding to reach Jaffna city, where 800,000 people live.

Other departures from orthodox guerrilla tactics laid down by exponents from Che Guevara to Mao Tse Tung include the Tigers' use of suicide squads with cyanide capsules around their necks and a willingness to fight conventional battles.

In 1987, an Indian military force sent to Sri Lanka under an accord between the two countries discovered the cost of trying to take Jaffna city from the Tigers in conventional battle.

More recently, the Tigers last month crossed a lagoon and went onto Mandavalli island and engaged a garrison of 300 troops in what military analysts said was close conventional combat.

The Tigers are also adept in the psychology of war.

It appears to be preparing for another bloody fight for Jaffna city, which Tiger chief Velupillai Prabhakaran considers the jewel of his Tamil empire.

The civilian casualties in the assault on the city in 1987 helped turn Tamils against the Indian peacekeeping force.

In brutal fighting, troops belonging to some of the elite units of the Indian army were mowed down by rebels grimly guarding their command centre in Jaffna University.

The Indian army commanders had to bring in artillery and frontline battle tanks to finally subdue the rebels.

Now, Sri Lankan troops, after capturing territory on the peninsula in the first phase of the operation, are poised within striking distance of Jaffna city.

The stage appears set for a showdown.

The Sri Lankan troops are waiting for new purchases of heavy weaponry before making the assault on Jaffna, diplomats say.

But the weapons will get to Sri Lanka only by mid-August, just weeks before the rains come in September, according to the diplomats.

This is the two-part series part appeared day's newspaper

By Rami

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Features

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, JULY 24 1995

Emperors, gods, revolts and political retribution: Reconstructing architectural, political history of Jerash

This is the second of a two-part series. The first part appeared in yesterday's newspaper.

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

THIS NEXT phase of the city's expansion coincided with two other important political developments in the region — the visit of the Roman Emperor Hadrian in 129/130 A.D., and the second Jewish revolt in 130-135 A.D. The South Gate was built at Jerash to welcome Hadrian to the city, and he prompted the city's leaders to expand the city to the south. They then built Hadrian's Arch 400 metres to the south, and drew up plans to expand the city in that direction. This urban expansion would have seen the Zeus complex occupying the central point in the city.

In the period 130-150 A.D., though, the Zeus Temple complex was again destroyed and rebuilt as a smaller sanctuary, and suddenly the large Temple of

Artemis complex was built on a higher hill inside the city. All major new buildings as of that moment are clustered around the Artemis complex, and Hadrian's Arch is left standing alone south of and well outside the city.

What happened to prompt this sudden change in the town plan? Mr. Seigne's hypothesis suggests that perhaps during the second Jewish revolt Jerash experienced a repeat of the circumstances of the first Jewish revolt.

If the Jerash population again sided with its Jewish population against the Roman emperor, it is possible that the emperor destroyed the Zeus Temple complex in order to show his anger with the people of Jerash. Then he may have backed a different faction of people within Jerash whose symbol of political power was the new Artemis Temple. Perhaps, the new power elite in Jerash comprised remnants or descendants of the former local Semitic population who had been marginalised in the previous century by the Hellenistic population that had built the Zeus complex as its own symbol of political control.

According to this theory, it was more practical to build a new temple to Artemis bigger than the Zeus Temple, and it would have been too costly and complicated to remove the Zeus complex and replace it with the Artemis complex on the same spot. The new Artemis complex thus became simultaneously the new symbol of political control at Jerash, as well as the new focal point for town planning. The southern expansion of the city towards Hadrian's Arch was abandoned, and expansion of the city as of around 150 A.D. occurred on an axis that revolved around the Temple of Artemis. Artemis became the official main deity of the city — a profoundly political act that humiliated those Jerash citizens who had made the mistake of backing the Jewish revolt against the emperor. The city adapted to the new cult of Artemis because this female deity was often seen as a Greco-Roman parallel to the

Semitic goddess Astarte, who was probably the main deity of the indigenous Semitic population. This change in Jerash's principal gods and temples might explain why, as of the mid-2nd century A.D., the eastern quarter of the city was built up, following the construction of the first bridge across the river — a bridge that linked the eastern city (the current modern city) with the approach to the Temple of Artemis. In the second half of the 2nd century A.D., consequently, Jerash witnessed the construction of its two main colonnaded streets (the North and South Decumanus) that crossed the Cardo in an east-west direction, the east baths, the North Theatre and other monuments that related to the Artemis complex rather than to the Zeus complex.

This theory suggests that Greco-Roman urban planning at Jerash only started with the construction of the Artemis Temple complex, for in the previous Hellenistic period the town only witnessed the expansion of the Zeus complex, without a fully-fledged urban town plan to go along with it. What might explain these facts? Again, political/economic factors may be the reason. Ms. Seigne's hypotheses that with the declining ability of the Roman emperors to continue

The expansion of the city as of the second half of the 2nd century A.D. is well attested in the archaeological excavations that have been conducted in the last several decades. Those excavations also show another change in the city's architectural history later that century. About one generation after the second Jewish revolt, work suddenly stopped on the Artemis complex, which was never completed, and the Zeus Temple complex was rebuilt in its existing form, with a new hilltop temple even bigger than the Artemis Temple.

This is purely a hypothesis that is constructed mainly on the strength of the evidence of the architectural story that is revealed by the excavations. No available literary evidence supports this theory; but there is a nearly parallel that may be explained by similar circumstances — in Amman. Perhaps, Mr. Seigne suggests, we can explain the presence of the remains of two Roman temples on the Amman Citadel by the same regional and local political factors that may have resulted in the construction of two large temples at Jerash.

Sharif Zeid

(Continued from page 1)

with Kuwait, once they improve with Saudi Arabia," he said. He added that Mr. Kababiti was expected to visit Saudi Arabia soon.

Asked whether it was possible that the international community could not make an exemption to Jordan to help and trade with Iraq since Jordan did not manufacture weapons,

Sharif Zeid said that "we are doing all we can do to help the Iraqi people. The Iraqis have made great sacrifices for the Arab causes" along the years.

Sharif Zeid said that during a meeting with Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini Sunday, he reiterated Jordan's commitment to help the Palestinians attain their rights.

"There are certain parties that are attempting to poison our relations (with the Palestinians)," he said. "But our objective is to help the Palestinians end the occupation. We have no plan to annex the West Bank" as some might think.

The Prime Minister acknowledged reports that the government was preparing new custom tariff lists but declined to give any details.

The luncheon was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Khalid Karaki. The journalists represented the mainstream press, the tabloids and political parties' newspapers. None of the leftist or Islamists' newspapers' editors were present.

Jordan urges

(Continued from page 1)

peace process. They signed a protocol that consolidates cooperation between their foreign ministries.

On Monday, he was scheduled to initial a maritime accord reached in January and review a cultural agreement signed in 1992.

West reinforces troops

(Continued from page 1)

including NATO air strikes, if the Serbs attacked "safe areas."

The besieged enclave of Zepa was rocked by mortar, tank and machine-gun fire on Sunday with heavy casualties among the town's defenders, a U.N. spokesman said.

"We have reports of more than 60 mortar impacts in the town as well as tank, heavy machine-gun and sniper fire," said Lieutenant Colonel Gary Coward, a U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo.

"The local police station has been heavily engaged and there are reports of large numbers of Bihac (Bosnian government army) casualties," he added.

As fighting for the U.N.-designated "safe area" continued, Bosnian radio reported representatives of government and separatist Serbs were meeting at Sarajevo's airport to discuss the evacuation of the sick and wounded from the town.

Zepa has been on the verge of falling since Wednesday when Bosnian Serb commander General Ratko Mladic prematurely announced its surrender. U.N. efforts to mediate a surrender of the enclave have borne no fruit despite several airport meetings.

Mr. Chirac said Western

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rival Kurd factions battle in Iraq

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Fresh fighting between rival Kurdish factions in northern Iraq has virtually destroyed the town of Rawanduz, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said here Sunday. The PUK spokesman in Damascus, Salah Baruari, told AFP that fighting broke out late Saturday between his faction and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) in the Wadi Khankeh region. "The KDP almost completely destroyed" Rawanduz, Mr. Baruari added. "There were injuries among PUK troops while the KDP suffered enormous losses." KDP officials here could not be reached for comment. Several dozen people were killed and wounded in fighting between the two Kurdish factions in northern Iraq in early July.

Pope says victims of unjust wars have a right to defence

LES COMBES, Italy (AFP) — Pope John Paul II, speaking on vacation in the Aosta Valley on Saturday, said that the civilian populations' falling victim to unjust wars have a right to defence. "Only a defensive war can be a just war," the pontiff told reporters. "Certainly it poses problems. Defensive war is painful, but it is so. If someone attacks and wants to trample life and the right to live, there exists the right to defend." The Pope noted that he had wanted to travel to Sarajevo one year ago, but his trip was cancelled due to security concerns.

Committee on press law adds 4 members

CAIRO (AFP) — An Egyptian committee created to reconsider a controversial press law met with four new delegates added after opposition protests over its original make-up, the government daily Al Ahram said Sunday. Kamel Zohairi, former head of the Journalists' Union, whom the opposition press had requested for the committee, also joined, as well as Mahmoud Tahami, president of the semi-governmental weekly Rose Al Yusef, Al Ahram said. The committee decided Saturday to give its members three weeks to review press laws from other countries, the paper said. Opposition papers erupted in protest when the original 30 members of the committee, chosen by the government, were announced on July 17, including only members of the ruling National Democratic Party and official newspapers.

Israeli troops massacred 35 Egyptians in 1956: study

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A right-wing Israeli deputy commanded an army battalion which massacred 35 Egyptian prisoners during the 1956 Suez conflict, a study written by the army's history department said Sunday. Soldiers from the 890th Paratroop Battalion, commanded by Rafael Eitan, later chief of staff and now leader of the Tsomet Party, shot the Egyptian troops in October 1956, the study, published in the Jerusalem Post, said. The official history, entitled "The 1956 Sinai War: Political and Military Aspects" was written by Dr. Moti Golani, the daily said. The report, authorised for publication by former chief of staff Ehud Barak, who became interior minister in Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government last week, is the first of its kind to be declassified by the army. It describes how the paratroopers, and a smaller unit commanded by the celebrated military leader Ariel Sharon, were stranded and exposed to Egyptian air attacks shortly after landing near the Mitla Pass in the Sinai desert, 12 kilometres from the Suez Canal. They took 35 prisoners and held them in a compound but soon shot them.

Police: Father beheads son

ESTANCIA, New Mexico (AP) — A father beheaded his 14-year-old son along a busy interstate as his younger son watched, fled with the boy's head in his van, and then tossed it out the window as police chased him, authorities said Saturday. The father, Eric Star Smith, 34, of Parker, Arizona, was captured in Albuquerque early Saturday. A 64-kilometre police chase ended when Mr. Smith's van crashed into a retaining wall, authorities said. He faces arraignment Monday on charges of murder and tampering with evidence. Mr. Smith stabbed his son, Eric Star Smith Jr., several times Friday night and decapitated him along a highway near the central New Mexico town of Moriarty, said Torrance County Sheriff Don Lyles. Mr. Smith raced away with the boy's head in the van, throwing it out the window about a kilometre down the highway, Mr. Lyles said. The head was found near a concrete barrier in the roadway median.

Gulf, West to conduct wargames

RIYADH (AFP) — Gulf Arab forces and their Western allies will conduct war games in Kuwait in March next year, a senior military official said Sunday. General Falah Al Shati, assistant secretary general for military affairs in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), told the Saudi daily Okaz that the manoeuvres were a show of force to "whoever seeks to destabilise the region."

Kurdish group goes on hunger strike

ISTANBUL (R) — A Kurdish association said on Sunday it started a five-day hunger strike to protest against the refusal by security officials to allow 10 of its members to enter the Kurdish city of Tunceli in eastern Turkey. The Tunceli Cultural and Solidarity Association in Istanbul sent 10 people to Tunceli last week to investigate alleged human rights abuses against civilians by soldiers fighting Kurdish guerrillas. But security officials at the city limits refused to allow the group in, saying there was fighting in the area, the association's chairman Selman Yesilgot told Reuters. Since security forces stepped up operations in Tunceli province last year, human rights groups say dozens of Kurdish villages have been forcibly evacuated and often burned by soldiers trying to deny militants from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) food and shelter. Security officials often deny journalists — and sometimes even Turkish politicians — access to villages in the mainly Kurdish east and southeast.

Hebron settlers behave almost like Serbs: Israeli minister

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli minister on Sunday said Jewish settlers living in the West Bank Palestinian town of Hebron were behaving "almost like Serbs," provoking an angry backlash from the colonists. Outspoken Communications and Culture Minister Shulamit Aloni said: "It is necessary to distinguish between those fighting what they consider a foreign regime (the Palestinians) and the settlers who consider themselves conquerors and behave almost like Serbs." Her comparison with the Bosnian Serbs, made in an interview with state radio, received short shrift from the settlers. Their spokesman, Noam Arnon, said: "It is the Arabs who behaved like Serbs towards us by massacring our women and children in Hebron in 1929. We will stay in Hebron for eternity. That's a historical reality." In its peace negotiations with the PLO on extending Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank, Israel has so far refused to evacuate Hebron, where 400 Jewish settlers live in the centre of town surrounded by 120,000 Palestinians.

UAE gives 11 million dollars for Bosnians

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has donated 40 million dirhams (11 million dollars) to support Bosnian Muslims against the Serbs, the official news agency WAM reported on Sunday. President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan has ordered the donation to "support the Bosnian people and ease their suffering from Serb violations and ethnic cleansing," it quoted an unnamed official as saying. "The donation stems from our stand which upholds rights and justice to help put an end to that human tragedy and mass annihilation and to enable the Bosnian people to defend themselves," it said. Sheikh Zayed, 79, has emerged as a key financial supporter of Bosnian Muslims during their three-year-old war against the Serbs. In press comments this week, he blasted the United Nations and called for lifting its arms embargo against Bosnians after Serb troops entered Srebrenica and advanced towards nearby Zepa.

9 killed in Colombia

MEDELLIN, Colombia (AFP) — Tonnes of mud and rock crashed down a mountainside Saturday, burying dozens of houses in a town in northeastern Colombia and killing at least nine people, officials said. The Red Cross reported 23 people injured and about 50 others missing in the town of Fredonia, in the northeastern department of Antioquia. Mudslides triggered by heavy rains buried between 30 and 50 houses on either side of the main road through Fredonia, the local mayor told the Red Cross. The bodies of nine people were retrieved from the rubble but rescue efforts were hampered by the blocked roads, the loss of power and telephone service and the nightfall, authorities said.

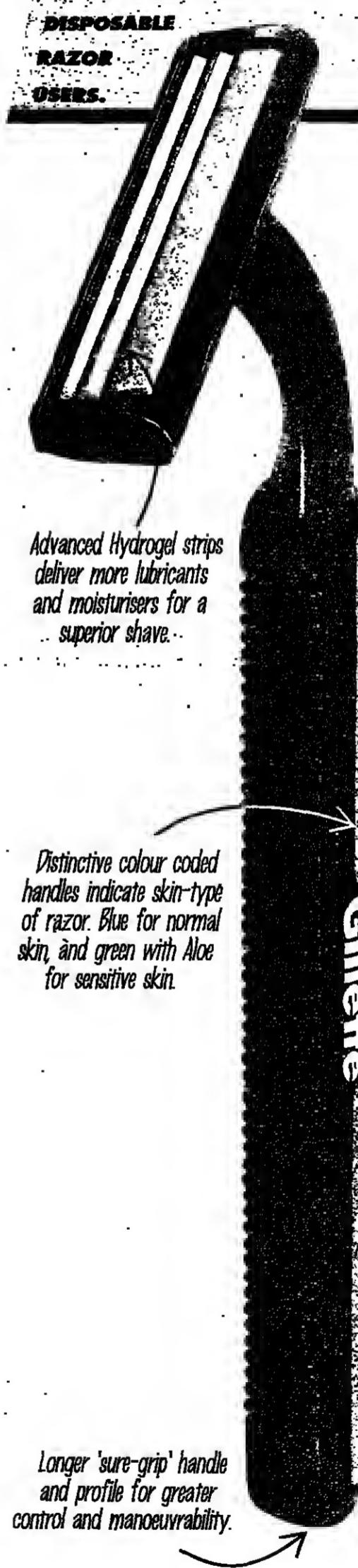
16 Arab troops killed in Bosnia

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A Kuwaiti and 15 other Arab volunteers have been killed while fighting in the Muslim Bosnian army against Serb forces, the Kuwait press reported Sunday. Adel Mohammad Suleiman Al Ghani, a Kuwaiti, was among 16 Arabs who died Friday in fighting against Serb forces, the official KUNA news agency said in an unconfirmed report. The 32-year-old, who left Kuwait for Bosnia a year ago, died at dawn during clashes around "Serb positions," the Al Watan daily added Sunday, publishing a photograph of the "martyr." Adel led a group of Arab mujahedeen (holy warriors) which the Bosnian government had tasked with defending security pockets close to Sarajevo, Al Watan said. "The group led several attacks against Serb forces, including the last one at dawn Friday which targeted Serb forces trying to enter Gorazde and Zepa," it said. "The mujahedeen were able to seize a tank and two missile batteries from the enemy during this battle in which Adel died," it said. "Serb forces suffered human and material losses in this battle which ended with the death of 15 other Arab fighters and five Bosnians," the newspaper said.

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Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, JULY 24 1995

Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

NRA's prospecting for oil grave mistake

Director General of the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) Fakhri Eddin Daghestani said the authority was not qualified to prospect for oil because it lacks the needed expertise. Delivering a lecture at the Amman-Philadelphia Rotary Club, Mr. Daghestani said entrusting the NRA with prospect for oil in the 1980s was a grave mistake. Saying highly-qualified companies face many difficulties in conducting studies and prospecting works, Mr. Daghestani asked how the authority, which is a government institution, could be requested to carry out such works. Such a process, he said, is very complicated and the authority, with its limited human resources, cannot conduct studies that might cost \$80 million. He said since the beginning of the 1980s till the beginning of 1994 the authority spent about \$300 million on prospecting for oil and gas. The NRA director general attributed the failure to find oil in commercial quantities in Jordan to the lack of serious work (Al Aswaq).

** The Cabinet agreed to second two financial experts to the Palestinian self-rule areas for a one-year term that can be renewed. The two experts will be helping the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in preparing general budgets and other financial matters. In its meeting Saturday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the Cabinet also approved signing a protocol with France, under whose terms the French government would offer 96 million French francs (JD 14.5 million) to finance several development projects. The minister of finance was authorised to sign the protocol on behalf of the government. The Cabinet also approved exchanging memoranda with Japan on a grant agreement. Under the agreement, Japan will offer Jordan a 550-million-yen grant (about \$6,400,000) to be used in purchasing agricultural equipment (Al Dostour).

** A ministerial committee approved converting the Public Transport Corporation into a commercial, public shareholding company before privatising it. The committee also entrusted a German company with the task of conducting studies and field surveys on the transport sector in Jordan. The German company will have to present its conclusions to the Council of Ministers within less than nine months (Al Ra'i).

** Director General of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) Umaya Touqan denied that a Jewish bank was granted approval to invest in the Jordanian bourse. The statement was made in response to an article published by Al Aswaq Thursday which said that a Jewish bank was granted such an approval two years ago (Al Aswaq).

Drowsy Arab markets stable, set to continue slow

DUBAI (R) — Arab stocks were quiet last week, with dealers expecting trade to continue slow in the next few weeks due to the absence in the market of major investors who are away on summer holidays.

Kuwait remained the star performer, with the mid-year stock rally rolling steadily onward thanks to good company results and hopes that parliament will pass a bill easing repayment terms for \$20 billion in bad debt owed partly by some listed firms.

The overall index jumped 2.3 per cent, or 26 points, in the week to 1,130 — its highest level since it was revived

last year. The index was suspended for 3½ years after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Volumes kept to their recent ascent, rising another 2.9 per cent in the week. Among blue chips, mobile communications jumped 3.6 per cent to 860 fils and commercial facilities rose 1.3 per cent to 780 fils. Burgan Bank was steady at 192.

A flurry of buying activity late in the week helped revive market confidence in Egypt, after weeks of falling prices and heavy-handed official intervention dented investor sentiment.

This helped slow the recent

slide in the index, which closed slightly down at 211.90 points from the previous week's 212.69.

Early in the week exchange officials blocked sell orders from being registered on the exchange system. On Sunday the bourse president twice halted trading when shares kept slipping.

Stocks on the unofficial United Arab Emirates bourse mostly stuck close to recent levels. The National Bank of Abu Dhabi index edging up 5.3 points to 1,868.53.

Share prices were little changed in Qatar and Saudi

Arabia. In Oman, industrials led the market slightly higher, but dealers said there was solid demand for insurance shares.

Investors remained sidelined in Jordan amid different interpretations of a state package of economic reforms.

In Bahrain, the index edged up almost 11 points to 1,212.81.

Solidere shares on the Beirut secondary market stuck in a tight band to close only slightly lower, despite a one-day general strike during the week which paralysed Lebanon.

Iran cleric urges tough penalties in fraud case

NICOSIA (R) — A senior Iranian cleric has accused the judiciary of favouring "big shots" and called for harsh penalties in a high-profile fraud case involving the brother of a powerful government figure.

"However when we find some big shot, they merely move him from one town to another and give him another post, maybe even higher than his previous post."

The sermon, reported by Iranian Television and moni-

tor by the British Broadcasting Corporation on Saturday night, appealed directly to top Judge Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi who on Friday denounced government critics as undermining the Islamic system.

"Ayatollah Yazdi, the big shots are those very people who have stolen 1.2 billion rials," Ayatollah Meshkini said in a reference to the case in which the brother and seven other men are accused of defrauding state-run bank saderat of an amount worth about \$400 million at the official exchange rate and of sabotaging Iran's economy.

The accused, Morteza Rafiqdoust is a brother of Mohsen Rafiqdoust, who was re-appointed by supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Saturday as head of Bonyad-e-Mosiuzafan-va-Janzaban (Foundation for the deprived and war disabled).

The foundation is Iran's largest economic organisation running industries worth billions of dollars from car plants to hotels.

Mohsen Rafiqdoust, who is also a senior Revolutionary Guards officer, is not directly involved in the case. But the court asked him on Tuesday to give evidence in the case which is widely seen in Iran as a challenge to one of its most powerful figures.

Speaking of those charged in Iran's largest fraud trial since the 1979 Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Meshkini said in his appeal to Mr. Yazdi: "These are your big shots. Their offence is bigger than their brains. Now, I am making this plea for justice. We hope you will carry out your duties and gain the people's attention."

Mr. Yazdi has been criticised in the Iranian media for alleged inaction over the case which was only brought into the open this year, four years after the fraud was said to have been committed.

The judicial authorities should "take the utmost care to find the culprit, reveal to the public the offences committed identify the offenders

— whoever they may be and whatever their positions, past records or uniform," Ayatollah Meshkini said.

The authorities should "suck the money out of their filthy guts, firmly and decisively and give them what they deserve," he added.

Russia steps up pressure on Azerbaijan over Caspian oil

BAKU (AFP) — Russia has stepped up pressure on Azerbaijan as the deadline approaches for a key decision on export routes for oil from the Caspian Sea, but the authorities in Baku are trying to keep their options open.

Azerbaijan is engaged in a delicate diplomatic juggling act as Russia, Turkey, Georgia, Iran and Western oil companies compete for the rights to extract and transport the rich Caspian reserves.

An existing pipeline from Baku to Novorossiysk passes through war-ravaged Chechnya, but a future route will skirt the breakaway republic, with a link to a planned pipeline for oil exports from Kazakhstan's Tengiz field.

Vice-President of the Azerbaijani state oil company Ilkham Aliyev said Friday that Baku envisaged three possible routes for exporting its oil from the Azri-Chirad and Guneshli fields in the Caspian: pipelines crossing Georgia or Russia, or via Iran.

Working groups set up by the consortium to study the rival pipeline projects are due to decide by the end of August which export route will be used for transporting the Azerbaijani oil. But Baku will have the final say.

In Baku last week, senior Russian lawmaker Vladimir Shumeiko said Moscow was "against the direct presence of U.S. strategic interests in Azerbaijan."

He also rejected a proposal to divide the Caspian Sea into national sectors, which is favoured by Azerbaijan.

The legal status of the vast inland sea has not been revised since the former Soviet Union and Iran signed treaties in 1921 and 1930.

Mr. Shumeiko, speaker of the Federation Council, said on returning to Moscow that his visit had been aimed at "defending Russia's strategic interests" in the oil sector.

His thinly veiled warning was echoed by a senior Russian foreign ministry official, who told Interfax news agency Saturday that Moscow had planned "tough measures to persuade Azerbaijan and several other countries in the Caspian Sea region to adopt a more realistic position."

It is not a matter of using force, but the plan provides for economic and other means of influence," he said.

A division of the Caspian into national sectors would "leave Russia with nothing but Astrakhan and the Volga river delta," he added.

U.S. companies have had a large stake in the Caspian consortium. Apart from Exxon, Amoco has a 17 per cent share, Unocal 11 per cent, McDermott 2.5 per cent, Pennzoil 9.8 per cent, and Ramco two per cent.

The other participants are: British Petroleum with 17 per cent, the Norwegian com-

pany, and the German company, which he used to purchase equipment for refining and gas transmission. The agreements were signed in London on Friday.

Last month, IICG said it would provide a \$25 million syndicated jet fuel financing facility to PIA Investments Limited, a subsidiary of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

IICG is the investment banking arm of the Geneva-based Dar Al Mal Al Islami group.

** Director General of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) Umaya Touqan denied that a Jewish bank was granted approval to invest in the Jordanian bourse. The statement was made in response to an article published by Al Aswaq Thursday which said that a Jewish bank was granted such an approval two years ago (Al Aswaq).

Bahraini firm in \$30m deal

MANAMA (R) — The Bahrain-based Islamic Investment Company of the Gulf (IICG) said on Sunday it would provide a \$30 million syndicated lease financing facility to two Pakistani firms.

A company statement said National Refinery Limited and Sui Southern Gas Limited would each get \$15 million. Both companies are 80 per cent controlled by the Pakistani government.

An IICG official said the three-year financing facilities

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SEMISANI TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179					
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 23/07/1995					
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	PREV. TRADED	CLOSING JD PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	INDEX NUMBER
ARAB BANK PIC	160	33990	208,000	214,000	
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	3450	15461	4,450	4,500	
BANK OF JORDAN	630	2127	3,380	3,380	
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	6100	8025	1,300	1,330	
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	800	2040	2,150	2,550	
THE HOUSING BANK	449	557	1,500	1,500	
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	2338	6572	2,600	2,800	
JORDAN CULIB BANK	15200	17921	1,150	1,150	
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	651	2423	3,700	3,730	
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	1000	4350	4,360	4,350	
JOHNSON & JOHNSON FINANCE BANK	250	1000	4,000	4,000	
BRIT ISLAMIC SAVINGS & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	100	367	3,600	3,670	
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	29500	32150	5,200	5,250	
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	170	901	5,250	5,300	
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	18918	31847	1,640	1,710	
BANKS SECTOR	79716	163030	INDEX NUMBER: 177.68		
JORDAN FIRE INSURANCE	4810	12969	2,670	2,700	
INSURANCE SECTOR	4810	12969	INDEX NUMBER: 136.27		
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	92260	151010	1,570	1,650	
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	500	28000	5,000	5,600	
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	500	1425	2,810	2,860	
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	1750	3838	2,100	2,210	
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	550	665	1,190	1,210	
MACHINERY EQUIP. RESTING & MAINTENANCE	1500	1025	.660	.690	
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	5150	11582	2,160	2,270	
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	7700	25000	3,260	3,240	
SERVICES SECTOR	114510	222544	INDEX NUMBER: 128.60		
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	5074	18334	3,560	3,650	
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	2850	8641	3,000	3,040	
THIRTY FIVE POTASH	295	1487	\$1,100	5,050	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1010	10592	10,220	10,450	
JORDAN TANNING	150	151	1,000	1,000	
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	4112	19901	4,820	4,900	
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	1300	7605	5,900	5,850	
JORDAN DAIRY	750	1688	2,250	2,250	
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	350	893	2,550	2,550	
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	250	963	3,850	3,850	
STANLEY ELECTRIC	500	1105	1,950	2,010	
STANLEY AIR DATA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	1200	9734	7,500	7,500	
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	6650	4944	.730	.750	
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	1075	5643	5,300	5,250	
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	17000	8385	.480	.500	
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	2100	2908	1,350	1,400	
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	500	1175	2,350	2,350	
JORDAN RUBBER INDUSTRIES	210	218	4,900		

Indurain wins record 5th Tour de France title

LIMOGES, France (AP) — Miguel Indurain won the Tour de France for a record fifth consecutive time Sunday, finishing the 20th and final stage a head of 4 minutes, 35 seconds over his nearest rival.

He finished in the pack on the Champs Elysees on a bright sunny day that emphasised the yellow jersey he has worn since July 9, when he won the 8th stage individual time trial.

Belgian Eddy Merckx, Frenchmen Jacques Anquetil and Bernard Hinault have also won five tours but Indurain was the first who did it in consecutive years.

Alex Zulle of Switzerland was second, the fifth different runner-up to Indurain in the Tour de France. Bjarne Riis of Denmark was third, more than six minutes behind.

Sunday's stage was a largely ceremonial ride from St. Genevieve des Bois to Paris, 155 kilometres to end on the Champs Elysees.

Djamilidine Abdoujaparov of Uzbekistan won the final stage, usually reserved for sprinters in the final eight laps up and down the famous French Avenue.

Indurain's Banesto teammates led him onto the Champs the first time to the cheers of the crowd estimated

at about 500,000 people with numerous Spanish fans and flags in view.

Then Indurain stayed mostly in the back of the pack for the final ride. Usually he was in the front, watching over things but he preferred to stay out of the way of the mad sprint to the finish Sunday in sharp contrast to the rest of the 23 days.

Indurain showed he was in control all the way on the clockwise loop of approximately 3.635 kilometres. He demonstrated that in four consecutive stages on the second weekend when he took the first individual time trial and was second in three different types of stages that put the distance between him and his major rivals.

In the mountains he would let his teammates pace him then took over in the final climb to minimise the margins and sometimes put gaps on his major rivals who could not keep up the pace day-after-day.

Although Indurain's margin was his smallest since 1991 when he won by 3:36 over Gianni Bugno, there was still little doubt he was the dominant rider from the start.

Zulle was the fifth different person to come in second behind Indurain.



Miguel Indurain

De Ferran grabs pole in Cleveland

CLEVELAND (R) — Brazilian IndyCar rookie Gil de Ferran used a record-setting qualifying lap Saturday to break Canadian Jacques Villeneuve's recent stranglehold on the pole position for Cleveland Grand Prix, which was to start late Sunday.

The 28-year-old de Ferran, driving a Reynard Mercedes-Benz, snatched the pole on the last lap of qualifying with an all-time road circuit speed record for an Indy Car.

With a track record time of 57.815 seconds, the Brazilian recorded a qualifying speed of 147.512 miles per hour (237.391 kph) on the Burke

Lakefront Airport Road Circuit to earn his first IndyCar series pole in only his 12th career race.

Villeneuve, who had started from pole in the last three races, was second fastest at 57.826 in his Reynard Ford-Cosworth.

De Ferran said that after a disappointing morning practice, his crew found a better set-up for the car. The rest was up to the Brazilian. "For qualifying, we made the car better and then it was a matter of what is called taking the car to the limit," he said.

Villeneuve, the series championship leader with three wins this season, had made a habit of winning the pole on his last qualifying lap. On Saturday, however, Villeneuve's fastest lap came much earlier.

"We did our fast lap halfway through the session so I knew we were in trouble," admitted the Canadian whose late attempt for a faster lap on the 10-turn, 2.369-mile

13.812 km) circuit was hampered by traffic.

"On those last two laps while I was on a fast lap, two other competitors were in my way," Villeneuve explained.

American Bryan Herta jumped from 15th to third place on the 27-car starting grid in his Reynard Ford-Cosworth with a time of 57.58.

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Yarmouk University in Irbid. hereby invite local and international suppliers of educational equipment in subject being taught in the Faculty of Educational Sciences of YU to apply for bidding documents and to submit tenders (bids) for the equipment to be provided to the various laboratories, workshops and classrooms of the faculty.

3- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents at The Liaison Office of Yarmouk University located at the Higher Council for Science and Technology building inside the campus of the Royal Scientific Society, in Amman between hours 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday through Wednesday beginning July 23, 1995 to Aug. 9, 1995.

4- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be obtained from the above referred office upon submission of a written application and payment of a non-refundable fee. All payments will be made by a bank draft or certified bank check in the currency of the purchaser's choice or in cash made out in favour of the Yarmouk University. Price of purchasing the documents would be the equivalent amount of Jordanian Dinars as follows:

- For delivery to personal callers JD 15,000 per lot.
- For delivery by local mail to local bidders by courier Service JD 25,000 per lot plus JD 50 for all lots.

Bids will be priced and submitted separately for each individual Lot. Contracts will be awarded on a Lot (by/Lot) basis to the lowest evaluated bidders who would prove capable to carry out the requirements of the contracts to be signed. Bidders could be awarded, more than one contract of each.

Closing date for the bid submission will be noon of September 23, 1995. Bids shall have a validity of 90 days and will be accompanied by a bid security to the value of about 3% of the Bid Price and of duration of 120 days.

Yarmouk University

Mu'tah University

Announcement issued by (JUST)
Jordan University of Science & Technology
Tender No. (36/95)

Doohan powers to 1st Donington triumph

DONINGTON, England (AFP) — World championship leader Mick Doohan powered his Honda to victory at the British 500cc Grand Prix Sunday and then admitted: "I didn't think I was going to catch Darryl Beattie."

A first win at Donington Park enabled Doohan to extend his championship lead to 15 points over fellow Australian Beattie, who finished second.

But Doohan said: "Darryl deserves a lot of credit for the work he did at the start of the race.

"Darryl really took off and I thought it was going to be a tough task to catch him. Then when I did catch him, I thought it was going to be another job pulling away.

"But I am happy with the way the Honda has worked all weekend, particularly here at Donington, which has not been one of my favourite race tracks and possibly isn't."

Beattie responded: "I rode as hard as I could at the start and made up some time on Mick and thought it was going to be good for a while. "But Mick put in some good times and managed to get by me and I just couldn't reply."

American Scott Russell had been ruled out of the race following a crash in the morning warm-up session.

The former world superbike champion suffered head and wrist injuries after colliding with French rider Jean-Pierre Jeandat.

Russell, riding a Suzuki, hit Jeandat's Suzuki on the approach to the Esses at the end of the 30-minute untimed practice.

Both riders were taken to the circuit's medical centre and after treatment both withdrew from the Grand Prix, with Jeandat sustaining a broken wrist in the incident.

Activists, however, said

Colombia hammers U.S. to finish in third place

MALDONADO, Uruguay (AP) — First-half goals by Luis Quinonez and Carlos Valderrama helped earn Colombia some revenge for their world cup setback as it beat the United States 4-1 late Saturday to take third place at the Copa America.

Quinonez gave Colombia at the lead in the 31st and Valderrama added his seven minutes later. After Fuastino Asprilla scored on the rebound off keeper Rene Higuita's free kick off the crossbar in the 50th, Joe-Max Moore gave the Americans their only goal on a penalty in the second.

Freddy Rincon completed the scoring in the 70th for the Colombians.

Colombia coach Hernan Gomez said Saturday's result meant that "we can leave aside the word failure."

"We came hoping to end up among the top four. This result is reassuring for our future," he said.

The victory avenged the Colombians' 2-1 loss last year in the World Cup, a loss which eliminated the pre-tournament favourites from the tournament.

Last month, Colombia played the Americans to a 0-0 draw in U.S. Cup '95, giving the United States the title in the four-team exhibition tourna-

ment.

The Colombians finished second.

Sampson attributed his side's defeat to "our exhaustion after the gigantic match against Brazil" in the semifinals Friday, which the Americans lost 1-0.

"We fielded a lot of substitutes because of injuries, including Wynona and Thomas Dooley," Sampson said. "With our full team the result might have been different."

Midfielder Tab Ramos was bitten by a spider, and the medicine he took caused an allergic reaction, Sampson said.

Ramos, who replaced Mike Sorber in the 37th minute, said "we were climbing step by step and hoping to reach the finals, but we stumbled against Brazil and our motivation to play for third place was not as high as in previous games."

Sampson, who was named as coach on an interim basis, said he hoped to continue to train the team, but would support any decision made by U.S. League President Alan Rothenberg, "even if he chooses a foreign coach."

Norway anti-nuclear protest fizzles out

they were happy that most spectators had displayed the token protest against France's recent decision to resume nuclear testing in the Pacific.

The Norwegian Players' Council, led by team captain and goalkeeper Erik Thorsteind, backed Bohinen's decision but shied away from own protests on the pitch apparently after a warning from FIFA, world soccer's governing body, not to mix sport and politics.

French team officials said the crowd protest had not influenced the match at all because it was done respectfully.

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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, JULY 24 1995.

U.S.
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at to "our expe-
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Sampson say
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who replaced
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is not as high as
games"

on, who was nam-
on an interim basis
to continue
team, but was
any decision made
gue President Ag-
erg, "even if it's
a foreign coach."

Unlike his three previous
matches, in which he dropped
just 15 of 51 games
without losing a set, Agassi
had problems with the 6-
foot-6 (198-centimetre)
Martin, the tallest player
on the ATP Tour.

Agassi had control of the
match in the first set, then
ran into trouble in the
second. Trailing 4-3, but
still on service, Agassi fell
behind love-40 before run-
ning off five straight points.

Agassi was then unable
to convert six different

break opportunities in the
next game before Martin
finally managed to hold
serve. Each player held service,
setting up the tie-breaker.

They split the first six

points, then Agassi won

three of the next five to

wrap up the match.

"I don't think it's abso-

lutely essential to play a

tough match like this head-

ing into the final," Agassi said.

"If you can get all

easy matches on the way to

final, then it's great. I'm

just glad to get out of this

one with a win."

Martin had won three of

eight previous meetings

with Agassi.

"You don't have to play

a perfect match to beat

Andre — I made a number

of mistakes and still felt I

had a good chance to win,"

Martin said. "However,

he's playing very well right

now and has a lot of

weapons. I'm pleased with

the way I played this week,

but I'm not happy with the

result, of course."

Edberg broke Rafter's

service often and early to

earn his ninth victory in as

many matches in the na-

tion's capital.

After relatively easy vic-

tories in his first two match-

es, Edberg struggled in Fri-

day's quarterfinals.

Following a 3-hour, 50-

minute rain delay, he com-

pleted a comeback victory

over Sergi Bruguera Sunday

and then swept past Jan

Apell in the final of the Mer-

cedes Cup for his eighth title

of the season.

In his match Saturday,

Edberg took control

against Rafter early, win-

ning the first set, only to

tie in the second as the

22-year-old Aussie found

his second wind.

But Edberg opened the

third set with consecutive

breaks to take a 4-0 lead

and was never headed in

the 75th victory of his

career, tops among active

tour players.

"I was very tired at the

end of the match. It's very

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Rafter also said he felt

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Martin, the tallest player

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After relatively easy vic-

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Following a 3-hour, 50-

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In his match Saturday,

Edberg took control

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But Edberg opened the

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OIC states to offer military aid to Bosnia — Iran

Contact group to examine Sarajevo's defensive needs

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said foreign ministers of Islamic countries pledged in a private meeting in Geneva last week to give military assistance to Bosnian Muslims.

Another senior Iranian official, parliament speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, sharply criticised Friday's London conference on Bosnia, saying on Sunday that it had given Bosnia's Serbs a green light to continue attacks against Muslims.

Mr. Velayati, in remarks made on Saturday and quoted by Iran radio, said: "At its meeting, the Islamic

Contact Group openly stressed that Bosnia has the right, like any other country, to defend itself and to have weapons."

The Foreign Ministers of Turkey, Pakistan, Iran, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Egypt and Malaysia, which form the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) contact group on Bosnia, declared at the Geneva meeting that the U.N. arms embargo on Bosnia was "invalid."

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said Sunday that Malaysia is willing to sell arms to Bosnian government forces to back

the OIC stand that the embargo was "invalid."

"We will sell (weapons) ... at the same time, we will also supply more weapons to our peacekeepers because our troops are not well-equipped unlike the NATO soldiers," Mr. Mahathir was reported as saying by the local Sunday Times.

Mr. Mahathir slammed the arms embargo as violating the Bosnians' right to defend themselves and accused NATO and the U.N. of double standards.

"While NATO and the U.N. forbid the supply of arms to all parties, the Serbs

are being supplied with weapons and oil to attack the Bosnians," he charged.

"They are allowing the slaughtering of Bosnians by the Serbs. I have never seen such injustice in this world," Mr. Mahathir said.

Mr. Velayati said: "... a number of the foreign ministers of the Islamic countries taking part in the Geneva meeting made a commitment, at a private meeting that took place at the end of the Geneva meeting, to lend defence assistance to Bosnia."

He did not name the countries or say what type of assistance was expected to reach the Bosnian Muslims.

Islamic countries object to the West's stance on Bosnia and consider it to be unfair," the Iranian minister added in his remarks on Iran Radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

Bosnian Foreign Minister Mohammed Sacibey, who attended the Geneva meeting, said he had been given pledges of weaponry and that military chiefs and defence ministers from the 51-member OIC would be meeting to work out details of help to his country.

The Iranian parliament speaker, in remarks on Iran television monitored by the BBC, said:

"The behaviour of the United Nations and the Security Council shows that they themselves want the Muslims to be driven out of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and that they approve of the crimes committed by the Serbs through their silence."

The London conference threatened retaliation against Bosnian Serbs if they attacked the Gorazde enclave.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri said: "What this means is that they have given their approval to

the slaughter of the Muslims of the cities of Srebrenica and Zepa and approval of Serb crimes throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Mr. Velayati said that the OIC contact group will meet soon to study the "defensive needs" of the Bosnian Muslim.

Defence ministers and military chiefs of staff from the group and other Islamic countries with peacekeepers in Bosnia would need "to hold talks to examine the defensive needs of Bosnian Muslims and ways of providing help," Mr. Velayati said without giving a date.

Russian, Chechen delegates sign military deal

GROZNY (Agencies) — Russian and Chechen negotiators signed a military deal on Sunday in talks to end a bloody conflict in Chechnya, but there was still no word of a deal on political issues which lie at the heart of the conflict.

"We have signed a deal on military issues," said Russian Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov, speaking at the end of Sunday's talks in Chechen regional capital Grozny.

"We have started the process of exchanging prisoners, resuming radio communication (between the Russian army and Chechen fighters) and working out the mechanism of disarmament," Mr. Kulikov said.

Russian soldiers and Chechen rebels are said to be holding hundreds of prisoners. Delegates are due to visit a Russian filtration camp on Monday where they say about 1,000 Chechen fighters are being held.

Both sides said a statement on a long-awaited political agreement could be signed during negotiations Monday.

Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, however, cast new doubt on the talks' prospects during a clandestine television broadcast Saturday night.

Usman Imayev, the top negotiator representing Mr. Dudayev's separatist forces, has said for days that an agreement is just around the corner, but the talks keep hitting snags.

Mr. Yeltsin sent thousands of troops into Chechnya in December.

Israel shells S. Lebanon; Hizbollah retaliates

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — Guerrillas fired a salvo of Katyusha rockets Sunday on an Israeli outpost in the border enclave the Jewish state occupies in South Lebanon, security sources reported.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said at least six rockets hit the post in the village of Beit Yohoun in the so-called "security zone."

There was no immediate word of casualties in the 5 a.m. attack, the sources said.

The attack triggered an Israeli artillery and tank bombardment of suspected guerrilla hideouts in Shiite Muslim villages north of the zone. There were no reports of the exchange.

Earlier Sunday, Israeli tanks and artillery shelled Shiite villages in the Iqlim Al-Tuffah, or apple province, near the southern port town of Nabatiyeh, where guerrillas of Hizbollah, or Party of God, maintain major strongholds.

No casualties were reported from the shelling either.

There was no responsibility claim for Sunday's Katyusha attack. But Hizbollah, which spearheads a guerrilla campaign to drive their Israeli and their militia allies out of the occupied zone, frequently unleashes rockets on its foes.

Meanwhile, a radical Palestinian guerrilla leader in South Lebanon on Sunday promised Israel rocket attacks and suicide bombings if it carried out threats to wipe out Arab guerrilla groups.

"About their (Israelis') claims they will wipe out factions and groups, we say we are a revolution and the revolution will continue until the Jews are removed from the land of Palestine and the Arab land," Lieutenant-Colonel Munir Maqdah said.

Mr. Maqdah, former commander of PLO chief Yasser Arafat's main Fatah group



SEEKING REFUGEE — A U.N. soldier besieged town of Srebrenica. Thousands helps a Bosnian refugee who arrived at of Bosnian Muslims have sought shelter at the U.N. air base in Tuzla after fleeing the the U.N. refugee camps (AFP photo)

Abbas returns to W. Bank after 47 years

forces in Lebanon but who now heads a small splinter faction, was responding to remarks made last week by Israel's top peace negotiator with Lebanon Uri Lubrani.

Mr. Lubrani was quoted by Beirut newspapers on Friday as saying on a visit to Israel's occupation zone in South Lebanon that Hizbollah, Lebanon's anti-Israel Muslim militant group, and Palestinian guerrilla factions "will be wiped out from existence before peace is reached" between Israel and Arab states.

"We will fight with all means to remove the (Israeli) occupier is removed. The more tyranny increases against our Palestinian people and our Arab and Islamic Nation, any means of struggle becomes permissible for us," said the bearded Maqdah, who is bitterly opposed to the 1993 PLO-Israel peace accord.

"I am happy to have returned to my homeland," said Mr. Abbas, who was reluctant to talk about his immediate plans. "My activities here will conform to my position as a member of the PLO executive committee," he told AFP.

Mr. Abbas is still officially head of the Palestinian negotiating committee with Israel but has hardly played a role in the peace process since the signature of the Declaration of Principles on the White House lawn on Sept. 13, 1993.

He said he would not return to Washington to sign an accord on the next phase of Palestinian self-rule when the two sides still negotiating to narrow their differences, reached agreement.

However, he played down his differences with PLO leader Yasser Arafat, which have left him out of the negotiations for the past two years. "There is nothing political. It was a question of procedure," he said.

Mr. Abbas, who has lived in Tunis for the past few years, met Mr. Arafat in Gaza city last week before returning to the West Bank.

Nigeria junta hints at clemency in coup plot

LAGOS (R) — South African President Nelson Mandela's envoy left Nigeria on Sunday with assurances that clemency for convicted coup plotters was under consideration, a government official said.

South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki was told at a dinner on Saturday by Lieutenant-General Oladipo Diya, number two in the ruling council that the national defence council would meet on Tuesday to consider clemency appeals for 40 people convicted in a secret trial

chaired by Mr. Abacha.

"He is a very compassionate person. I have every reason to believe that he is going to look at each case on its merit and take definite steps to perhaps temper justice with mercy."

The authorities have not made public the coup sentences, which are subject to the confirmation of the PRC

chaired by Mr. Abacha.

Among those found guilty was a former head of state, retired general Olusegun Obasanjo. Every coup trial in Nigeria since the first failed coup attempt in 1976 has resulted in executions.

Mr. Mbeki left Abuja after

consider clemency.

"There is every reason not to believe that Abacha will be very sympathetic to these pleas by the international community," spokesman David Attah was quoted as saying in Thisday newspaper.

"These agreements aim to protect the general rights of citizens and combat torture and other forms of maltreatment," a statement by the cabinet of the Gulf state said.

It said it had sent the assembly draft laws stipulating that Kuwait accede to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the U.N. Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or De-

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Human rights experts say the bills, if ratified by parliament, will require Kuwait periodically to give a public accounting to U.N. committees overseeing compliance with the pacts.

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Concern over Nigeria's human rights record was heightened by the execution of 43 armed robbery convicts on Saturday — the largest number to go before a firing squad for decades.

The government said the executions, carried out in groups at the Kirkiriki maximum security prison on the outskirts of Lagos and watched by a crowd of about 1,000, were intended to crack down on an upsurge in violent crime.

Local human rights groups condemned the executions, saying they would not curb crime in a nation going through its worst social, economic and political crisis in two decades.

The West African nation has been in turmoil since the

three days in the Nigerian capital trying to persuade Mr. Abacha to show clemency to the plotters.

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Moshood Abiola, the businessman believed to have won the election, is in jail while on trial for treason. Mr. Abacha, who seized power last November after the annulment, has promised to announce a timetable in October for a transition to civilian rule.

The Campaign for Democracy Alliance said in a statement that Saturday's executions were inhumane, noting that the 43 bodies were taken away in a rubbish truck.

Mr. Abdul Ofor, director of Civil Liberties Organisation, told Reuters: "We have been executing robbers since the early 1970s and we are still having armed robbery."

Mr. Ofor said: "The robbers harder and more violent," said Mr. Ofor.

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